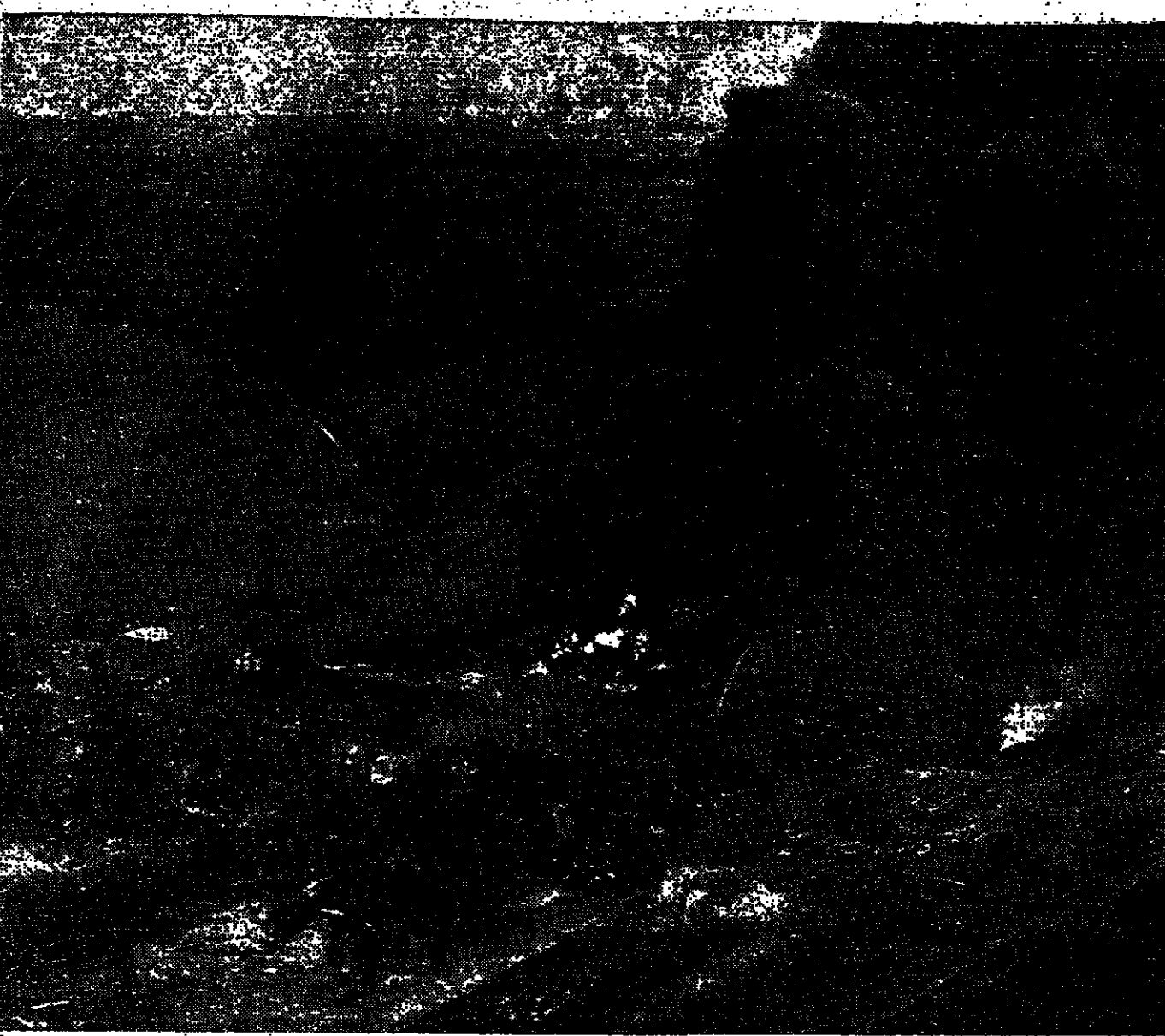


'ire rages on after one of the worst disasters in world chemical industry

Managers of the £18m chemical plant destroyed by explosion and fire on Saturday with the loss of 29 lives—and still blazing yesterday—had no idea last night what caused the disaster. Leslie Grainger, chairman of the National Coal Board, said the plant to make caprolactam, an essential component in the manufacture of nylon fibres. The destroyed factory was the only one in Britain making caprolactam and it is feared that thousands of textile workers may be affected by the loss of such a vital supplier of a raw material which was already scarce before the explosion.



Thick smoke billowing over the countryside yesterday from the Nypro plant at Fifeborough, which was still burning more than 24 hours after the explosion. (Another photograph, page 4).

9 workers dead, more than 40 injured and huge area of surrounding land devastated

Some returned home yesterday, but the area where most of the victims died. Had the explosion happened on a weekday, the death and injury toll would have been much higher, as the plant employs a total of 300 people, with about 200 on duty on a normal day shift. On Saturday night, there were only 70 on the site. Mr Wynn Rogers, chairman of the Dutch State Mines, said last night: "It is completely amazing. We cannot understand it." Mr Grainger said although they were always conscious of the danger of fire, the heating and pressurization process was carried out in closely controlled conditions and numerous interlocking devices had been fitted into all the control systems to prevent human error. Mr Selman said there were several dozen plants of the same kind in the world. This plant was fully insured and its safety standards were accepted by all the leading insurance companies. A full investigation by the company and police experts has begun and Mr Grainger said the company would give full assistance to any further inquiry. "We think we shall come to the conclusion that this was unique in the history of the chemical industry," he said. A committee has been formed to carry out urgent action on compensation to victims, including the hundreds of house-holders and property owners for miles around who suffered shock and damage. "This company will fully meet its commitments," Mr Grainger said.

Investigation on planning: Mr Oakes, Under-Secretary of State in the Department of the Environment, said yesterday that he was calling for an immediate inquiry into the relationship between planning and industry in the light of the Scunthorpe disaster (The Press Association reports).

"Dangerous processes and houses must be kept well apart," he said. "I am in no way satisfied that planning authorities have the necessary information or the expertise to assess potentially lethal hazards if a new process is established."

Mr David Crouch, Conservative MP for Canterbury, and chairman of the all-party group for the chemical industries, said the disaster raised the question of safety standards and hazards in the chemical industry. "We must know not only the potential danger of certain processes but the scale of danger to the public when they are expanded to such a vast size as at Fifeborough. I am asking the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Industry for their views on this point."

Our Political Staff writes: A private notice question has been tabled by Mr John Ellis, Labour MP for Brixton and Scunthorpe, for answer in the Commons today.

"Apart from expressing sympathy, Mr Ellis and many MPs on both sides of the House will want an explanation of how a catastrophe on such a scale could have occurred. They will also want to know what proposals the Government has to minimize the risk of a similar disaster elsewhere."

Stiffening of EEC in face of Britain's demands

From Roger Berthoud, Brussels, June 2
Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, will be making his second statement on the Labour Government's renegotiation demands in Luxembourg on Tuesday from a considerably weakened position. It is widely felt in Brussels.

There is a new determination, symbolized by the week-end meeting of the new French President and the new West German Chancellor in Paris, to revive the drooping EEC, coupled with a new warmth in Franco-German relations. Renegotiations look increasingly like an intractable obstacle. It will be no good Mr Callaghan repeating the threats of Britain's withdrawal which marked his harsh April 1 statement in Luxembourg.

Such threats would no longer be convincing, as it is felt generally that the British Government genuinely wants Britain to stay in the Community. Even the American Administration has made it clear that it is appalled by talk of withdrawal.

Mr Callaghan will have to do more than persuade his sceptical colleagues that Britain has a genuine grievance, and that the accession treaty did not represent a fair deal. He will have to convince them that once any negotiations are over Britain will want to play a full and constructive role in the Community. This involves admitting that the broad goals of the Community, including eventual economic and monetary union, are worth while. Mr Callaghan's tone of voice will be all important.

The European Commission has meanwhile rebuffed a suggestion from Britain that it should put forward proposals itself for a more equitable system of contributions to the EEC budget. A reduction in Britain's proportional share is the main target of renegotiations. But the Government, sources here suggest, does not intend to state its demands too specifically.

A Commission initiative would have been convenient. But the Commission, having discussed the matter, felt it would be unwise at this stage to appear to be backing the British Government.

Under the present system, based on import levies and duties, the wealthy Germans and the relatively poor British and Italians, are net contributors, while the rich Dutch, French and Belgians are net beneficiaries. By 1980, according to Treasury calculations, Britain could be paying 24 per cent of the budget, while its share in the EEC's gross product would have dropped to 14 per cent.

The meeting of the EEC's Council of Ministers will mark the debut of the new French and German Foreign Ministers, Mr Sauvagnargues, and Herr Genscher.

Mr Callaghan will be accompanied by Mr Peter Shore, Trade Secretary, and Mr Hattersley, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, respectively anti and pro-renegotiation. Other fields in which Mr Callaghan is expected to give a clearer idea of the Government's hopes are the reform of the common agricultural policy, and better access for Commonwealth products.

Battle of Europe, page 14

Bipartisan policy in balance as MPs prepare for Ulster debate

By John Grosar
Political Staff
By the end of the two-day emergency debate on Northern Ireland tomorrow night, the Government will know whether it can continue with a bipartisan policy.

Ministers, who so far have listened anxiously to the rumblings of discontent that have been heard on all sides of the House as well as in certain parts of the Lords, fear that in the next two days the rumblings will grow to a crescendo as MPs and peers insist that enough British involvement is enough.

Before the debates start, groups of MPs and peers will meet at Westminster to review what they all regard as an extremely grave situation. This morning Government business managers in the Lords will decide whether the debate in the Upper House should continue two days also. Whether it is a one-day debate (as was suggested, it would be on Friday) or a two-day one, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Elphinstone, will open. He will be followed by the Opposition by Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone.

If the debate continues into the second day, it is understood that Lord Shepherd, Lord Privy Seal, will open for the Government and Lord Donaldson, Under Secretary for Northern Ireland, will wind up. Lord Windlesham, shadow leader of the House, and Lord Belsted will speak for the Opposition.

In the Commons the speakers today will be Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland; Mr Silkin, Attorney General; Mr Pym, Conservative spokesman on Northern Ireland; and Mr Deedes, Conservative MP for Ashford.

Tomorrow, Mr Poulson will open the debate and will be followed by Mr Heath and Mr Gilmour, Conservative spokesman on Defence, Mr Orme, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, and Mr Pym.

At 1.45 pm today, Mr Deedes, a former Cabinet Minister, will chair a meeting of the Conservative backbench Northern Ireland committee. It is thought likely that Mr Pym will attend.

Mr Deedes, who has said publicly that Conservative MPs should no longer be barred from criticizing the Opposition commitment to a bipartisan approach, will want to hear the views of his backbench colleagues before he moves down to the front bench to wind up tonight's debate.

Inevitably the Home Secretary's statement on the Price sisters will be brought into the debate. Most MPs warmly applauded this firm decision not to give in to blackmail. Others, however, wonder if the statement is worth the risk involved and the possible danger to still more members of the public.

The statement, issued by Mr Jenkins on Saturday, has been praised by Opposition spokesmen as "courageous and absolutely right". It is said, however, that the Home Secretary needed all his skills of diplomacy and patience to carry some of his ministerial colleagues.

Although carefully worded, almost in a minor key, the statement was quite drastic and set out our open and sincere intention to give way to duress from any quarter.

MPs were told last night that Mr Jenkins had taken the opportunity of reminding people that the Price sisters were responsible for the serious injury of many people and most of them would echo his words about not being forced into action "as a result of intimidation, however harrowing may be the consequences".

IRA men killed: Mr Paul Tinnelly, an official IRA man who is believed to have helped the Littlejohn brothers, was shot dead by seven gunmen in Rosstrevor, Co. Down, last night (Robert Fisk writes from Belfast).

The Littlejohns lived for several months in Rosstrevor, in a house a few yards from Mr Tinnelly. They joined the IRA to try to gather intelligence for the British Government and after their arrest and conviction for a Dublin bank robbery the IRA suspected that Mr Tinnelly had been operating with them.

Mr Jenkins's statement, page 2
Leading article, page 15

Guerrillas seek peace talks compromise

From Paul Martin, Beirut, June 2
The self-styled Palestinian Parliament today tried to hammer out a formula for participation in the Geneva talks as the great debate on current peace moves continued. A peace saving compromise offered by the divided guerrilla movement calls for Palestinian attendance if participants at Geneva agree to discuss "Palestinian rights".

Ever since it opened in Cairo on Saturday, the 154-member Palestinian Council has served to underline the difficulties already faced by the guerrillas. However, Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization and leader of the moderate grouping, has already begun to muster support both inside and outside the meeting.

As the council met today, it was reported that 73,000 Palestinians in Lebanon and Syria had lent their signatures to a petition supporting a compromise document. This outlined 10 points under which Mr Arafat and his supporters hoped to avert a public split with the militants and take the Palestinians into the Geneva talks.

One compromise proposal, which is understood to have won the council's approval today, was the rejection of Geneva attendance if this was to be within the framework of United Nations resolution 242. This resolution called merely for a settlement of the Palestine "refugee" problem as part of an overall settlement.

Palestinian leaders have insisted that this does not tackle the "problem" of Palestinian "national rights".

Progress at Geneva, page 6

Keegan held in Belgrade airport incident

From Geoffrey Green, Football Correspondent, Belgrade, June 2
Kevin Keegan, a member of the England football team who are to play Yugoslavia on Wednesday, was involved in an incident on arrival here today from Sofia. He was originally taken into custody, but was later released "on surveillance". The British Embassy are investigating the matter and have asked the Yugoslavs for an explanation.

The incident was born of a mistake in the English tour itinerary that did not take into account the hour's time difference between Sofia and Belgrade. There were no Yugoslav football officials on hand to greet the team and shepherd them through foreign territory.

It seems that some of the players indulged in harmless horseplay that was misunderstood by the airport officials. Keegan, tired out by the flight, was sitting with his hand luggage when he and some others were hustled unceremoniously. His belongings flew in various directions; he was manhandled, and frogmarched out of sight and into detention. It was only on the arrival and intervention of Dr Andrejevic, president of the Yugoslav Football Association, that Keegan was finally released, mopping a bleeding nose.

England's next challenge, page 11

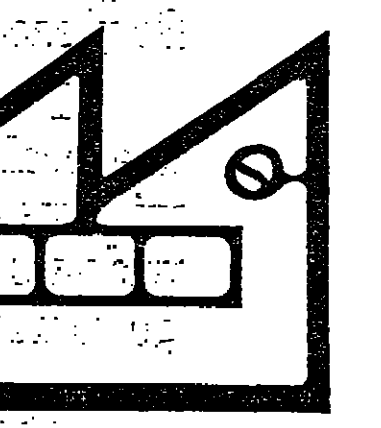
'Resign' call to Mr Short

Mr Edward Milne, Independent Labour MP for Blyth, yesterday demanded the resignation of Mr Edward Short, deputy leader of the Labour Party.

Mr Milne spoke at Ponteland, Northumberland, of a "crisis of confidence" in the leadership of Mr Wilson and Mr Short.

Mr Short to make a Commons statement, subject to parliamentary questioning, on his associations with Dan Smith. Questions which needed answering were: When was Mr Wilson first informed of the situation? Did it

Industrial development can weigh on the mind



Textile industry jobs may be affected

Our Business News Staff
Thousands of workers in the textile industry may be affected by the explosion at the Scunthorpe caprolactam plant. The plant was the only one of its kind in Britain producing caprolactam, which is the basic material used in the manufacture of nylon fibres. Its principal customers, Courtaulds and British Nylon, together account for an estimated 30 per cent of British nylon production. Nylon, which has a wide range of uses, like many other fibres, has been in short supply for several months. Although the British mammoth fibre industry managed to recover strongly in the early part of the year, stocks have not been built up to normal levels.

Executives of both companies have to find alternative sources of supply for an already scarce material and will have to pay substantially higher prices for overseas supplies.

Records feared lost, page 4
Business news, page 17

Families return to salvage what they can from the ruins of their homes

From Staff Reporters, Scunthorpe
The shocked and bandaged residents of the 16 shattered houses in Stathes Road, Fifeborough, the closest to the devastated plant, 600 yards away across a field of corn, picked their way through their bills and debris yesterday afternoon. Many wandered, with justification, how they had survived.

If ever the overworked cliché about damage resembling that of war-time was justified, it was on this occasion. The plant was an awesome thing like a mangled, futuristic mecano set, blackened and smoking with zents of flame flaring at the base of a dense column of black smoke which could be seen 30 miles away.

Across the cornfield the semi-detached houses had taken the full force of the explosion. Residents, some in tears at the destruction of homes that had taken from 20 to 30 years to make, realized that they had been destroyed in one second at five minutes to five on Saturday evening.

Cables were blown away, roof joists had been sheared and pointed to the sky. Walls billowed and were craked from top to bottom. Roofs had been warped clean of slates. Ceilings had fallen, window frames had been blown to matchwood and the bricks-brac of every wall were embedded in walls or shredded by glass.

A television set with its innards blown open, fitted ward-robes cleared of a stroke, a vacuum cleaner hanging from an upstairs window and personal papers eddying everywhere in the gutters and on the wall kept laws.

Shortly after lunchtime the residents began returning from their overnight temporary homes with friends and relatives. Their own vehicles probably crushed beyond repair, they came in borrowed cars to salvage what they could. They departed sadly, with vehicles piled with clothing and the odd piece of favourite furniture to give an assurance of normality in the weeks to come.

Mr Daniel Nimmo, a number 7 civil engineer and war-time member of a commando unit, spoke of the most terrifying experience of his life. It was a moment shared by probably between 15,000 and 20,000 in Fifeborough and farther afield in neighbouring villages, and even in Scunthorpe four miles away.

Mr Nimmo was watching football on television when his son Brian, who plays for the United club in Scunthorpe, the latter called to him at five minutes to five that "the Nypro" as it is called locally, was on fire. Mr Nimmo went to his front window and saw a surge of flame around the mill block known as Section One.

The residents of Stathes Road are no strangers to the wall of fire sirens. The Scunthorpe Brigade, they said, was called to the plant on an average of twice a month to deal with small outbreaks.

Mr Nimmo said: "I knew something was wrong at five minutes to five on Saturday evening."

Continued on page 4, col 5

Africans reject Rhodesia settlement plan

From Our Correspondent, Salisbury, June 2
The African National Council (ANC) today unanimously rejected settlement proposals which were the outcome of almost a year's discussions between the Rhodesian Government and itself. But it proposed that further negotiations with the Government should take place, with emphasis on parliamentary representation for blacks and the franchise.

The ANC said that under the proposals it would take blacks between 40 and 60 years to reach parity with whites in the House of Assembly.

A Rhodesian Government spokesman said tonight that there would be no comment on the rejection of the proposals.

But the fact that the ANC leadership wishes to continue talking to the Government indicates that it is maintaining a moderate line.

Land market 'near collapse'

The building land market faces a "state of collapse" because of the continuing decline in demand, the Director of Building Land Prices says today.

Average land prices, at £20,890 an acre, are almost 55,000 below last year's average level.

Meanwhile, the country's large building societies report that although demand for houses is increasing, prices are unlikely to rise before next spring.

Business News, page 17

Chinese pandas for London

Hongkong, June 2.—China will present two giant pandas to London zoo as a gift to the British people. It is thought there will be one male and one female panda.

Mr Heath, who has been visiting China, announced the gift on his arrival in Hongkong today before flying back to London.

Chinese poster attack, page 6

The rest of the news

- Refinery strike: Scottish industry threatened as men decide to stay out
- 2 Ball hostels: Home Office blamed for delay in giving permission to open
- 2 War history: Sir Arthur Harris renews attack on criticism of bomber offensive
- 3 Social contract: Must be more than just a cynical charter, GMWU chairman says
- 3 Asians' strike: Undercurrents at Leicester factory
- 3 Paris: Giscard-Schmidt alliance to halt disintegration of EEC
- 5 Madrid: Opposition groups agree joint plan
- 5 Rome: Italian authorities face up to neo-fascist threat
- 5 Mozambique: Portuguese to open talks with Frelimo
- 5 Shutan: The Dragon King takes his throne
- 6 China: Canton posters attack management staff in provinces
- 6 Children: The difficulties of the lone father
- 7 Tennis: Christine Evert wins Italian singles title
- 10 Racing: Lester Piggott to ride Arthurian in the Derby
- 10 suspended by stewards at Longchamp
- 11 Thanet: Two-page special report
- 12-13 Japan: The spectre of militarism rises again
- 14 Kuwait: Breakdown in BP's negotiations over state oil prices
- 17 Lockheed: US industrial group expected to buy stake in TriStar company
- 17

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Photograph by Marten Harisson

Record of events before blast at Flixborough chemical plant may have been destroyed

Emergency centres set up for blast victims

The Castle Point Oil Refineries Resistance Group said it was worried about the chemicals and would send a telegram to the Prime Minister asking for

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Opposition groups in Spain agree joint plan

themselves open to the charge that they were setting up a kind of Pan-Bonn axis and taking decisions without their partners. However, with Italy and Britain out of the running, only France and Germany are in a position to take any initiatives.

Agreement in Paris was vastly helped by the close personal relations between the two men who are on the other side of the Atlantic. We have known each other for some years", Herl Schmidt observed, "and we are used to dealing with difficult situations. Our talks were marked by great cordiality which is natural between friends."

There were President Pompidou and Mr Heath had a natural liking for one another, which smoothed over many difficulties. M Giscard d'Estaing and Herl Schmidt get on well and neither of them has very much time to spare. The only serious problem which should make the British Government stop and think is once again it is not to miss the bus in Europe.

There was great cordiale between Paris and London has now given place to a revival of the exemplary Franco-German relations of a few years back with Britain consciously left out of the picture. It is ironic that two leaders spoke to one another in English.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT
Madrid, June 2

Widespread strikes can be expected throughout Spain next autumn, a representative of the powerful outlawed Workers' Commissions has said at a secret conference in southern Spain.

He spoke of the strike plans at a recent meeting of southern Spanish opposition leaders somewhere in Andalusia, to which a number of foreign journalists were invited. Representatives of nine underground political organizations attended.

The meeting, called by the Socialist Alliance of Andalusia (ASA), was the biggest secret regional meeting of the illegal opposition since last autumn, when police arrested more than 100 activists who were alleged to be trying to form a Catalonian opposition in a Barcelona church.

Those at the Andalusia meeting represented the ASA, the Workers' Commissions, the Red Flag communist organization (Trotskyite), the Carlist Party, the Communist Party of Spain (Moscow influenced), the International Communist Party, the General Workers' Union, and the socialist trade union, and the Spanish Socialist Party.

A statement issued after the

Are last years' valuations worth the paper they're written on?

years the extreme right has been engaged in a whole series of acts of violence and such actions have had the effect of some broader aim than just keeping the ghosts of the past alive.

There is now a conviction that terrorism must be stopped and that the state must stop appearing to ignore and even encourage the dangerous practices of right-wing extremists.

Signor Paolo Taviani, the Minister of the Interior, acted promptly by setting up yesterday a new inspectorate to deal with terrorism.

President Leone, in his message today to the armed forces, pointed out that such criminal acts as the Brescia bombings were due to the "irresponsible action of squalid terrorist minorities, directed at dismantling the institutions of the state."

He went on to express his confidence in the sense of balance of the majority.

The participation of the ordinary citizen is also seen to be necessary in the need greater security facing the country, that of tackling the threatened collapse of the economy.

Speakers predicted "a hot autumn for economic reasons". They, and the joint statement, placed considerable emphasis on Spain's economic troubles as they affect workers.

Asked why the "democratic opposition" attending the meeting did not include representatives of the more conservative opposition groups, the Socialist Party representative replied: "The exclusion of the Christian Democrats and others like them is not intentional.

"They are welcome, but they simply exist as a marginal, unimportant political force in Andalusia. Our only common aim is freedom from dictatorship."

The representative of the ASA, which was formed last autumn to unify opposition in the region, topple the regime and prevent a return to Franco, said: "Only in the unity of all democratic groups is there any hope of overthrowing the regime."

Recalling promises of liberalization made in February by the Senior Carlos Arias Navarro, the speaker said: "The regime must stand, or the regime must fall."

writes: Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, met President Senghor of Senegal for 45 minutes yesterday at his private flat in Paris.

The Minister was returning to Lisbon after the first round of negotiations in London with representatives of the Guinea-Bissau independence movement. He also met Mr Sauvagnargues, the French Foreign Minister.

President Senghor expressed a "reasoned optimism" about the outcome of the London negotiations after the meeting with Soares and hoped that rural would soon open discussions with the independence movements in Mozambique and Angola.

"Problems there are more complex", he said. "But I think that if possible, these will involve Guinea-Bissau, these will influence negotiations with Angola and Mozambique."

San Sebastián, June 2.—A policeman was shot and killed today while searching for four Basque separatists who stole a company payroll on Friday. The victim was one of several Civil Guards who tried to stop three men for questioning. One of the suspects opened fire as they fled.—UPI.

Whether EEC rule on alcohol content valid

annex II of the treaty, under the headings 22.06 and 22.09 of the Brussels nomenclature, the following products: ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin, concentrated, of any strength obtained from agricultural products listed in annex II of the treaty, and other spirits and other spirituous beverages and compound alcoholic preparations (known as concentrated spirits) for the manufacture of beverages.

According to the German Federal Fiscal Court, there arose the question whether Regulation 738/53, which was issued by the Council in the Official Journal on January 30, 1951, when the time limit specified in Article 38 of the EEC Treaty for additions to annex II had already expired.

The fact that the regulation was to take retroactive effect on December 31, 1959, when the Council still had the power to add to annex II, was irrelevant. In substance, according to Article 191, regulations shall enter into force on the date specified in their text, or in the absence thereof, on the third day following their publication.

The German court further inquired what were the criteria for distinguishing between the products listed under the headings 22.06 (C) (spirituous beverages) and 22.09 (C) (spirituous beverages) respectively.

Judgment

The questions concerned the validity of Council Regulation 738/53 and the interpretation of this regulation under the headings 22.06 and 22.09 of the Brussels nomenclature. On the question of the validity of the regulation, the Council had, during the oral part of the proceedings, argued that it had become part and parcel of valid Community law rules through Article 1 of the Treaty of Accession which provided that the new member States became parties to the treaties establishing those communities as amended or supplemented.¹¹

Such an objection by the Council could not be upheld. The object of the various instruments of accession was to create a new member states the whole body of Community law in force at the moment of accession. It was true that the Commission, under Article 3 of the Treaty of Accession — might be considered as a recognised body — but the legal character of decisions or agreements enacted within the general framework of Community law.

However, no provision of the treaty, or of a ruling, could be viewed as establishing measures in their own force, in a counter to the treaties establishing the European Communities.

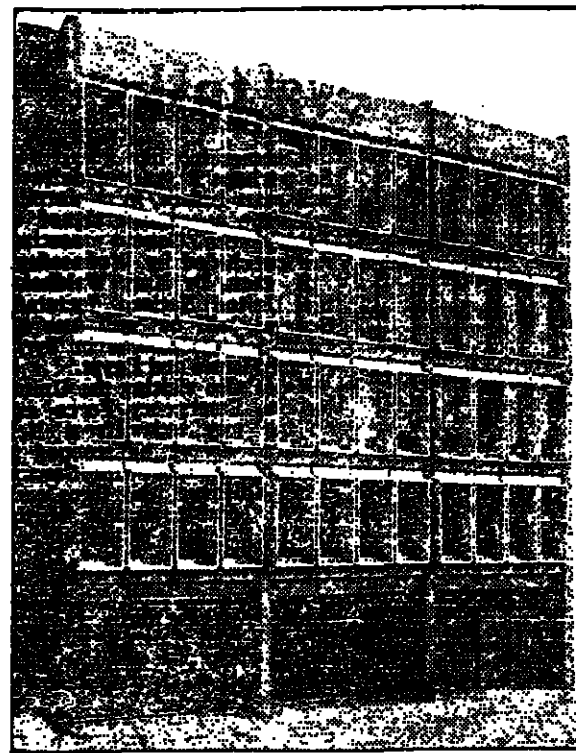
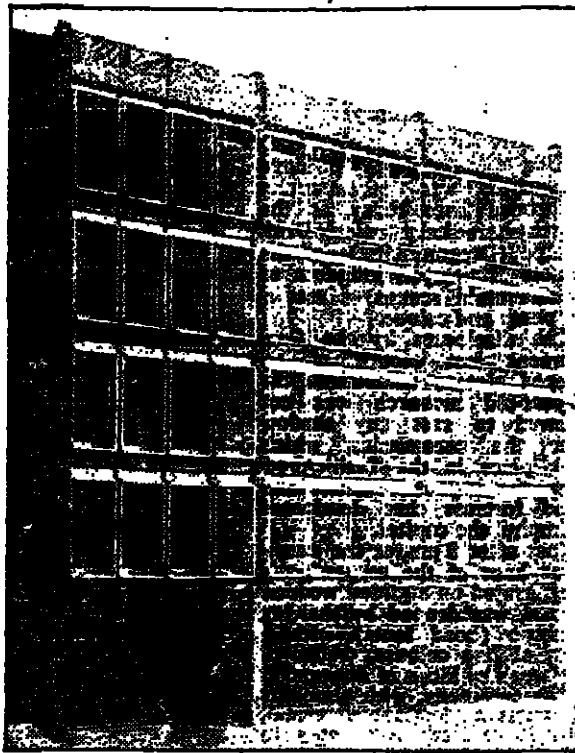
After dealing with that objection by the Council, the Commission stated the validity of regulation 7 Bis 59 as the following grounds :

It was patent that the Council had not intended to have laid down in Article 38(3), decided, the proposal of the Commission, to insert in annex I the goods listed in the Regulation 7 Bis. This appears from the very text of the regulation of December 18, 1959, as published in the Official Journal. The validity of the regulation was not in question, the fact that it had been published after the expiration of the time limit laid down in Article 38 (3) of the EEC Treaty, — delay in publication — could be a mere technicality, which the regulation could have been applied or could have produced its effect.

On the other hand, it did not examine the question whether the provision of Article 2(1) of the disputed regulation, laying down that the regulation was to be applied prior to its publication, was compatible with general principles of law, as this question had not been raised by the national court within the framework of the question.

On the question as to how to distinguish between goods classified under the two tariff positions of the nomenclature, the Commission stated that ethyl alcohol was to be distinguished from spirituous beverages, on the basis of the aromatic or taste qualities of the latter.

1974?



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Europa tomorrow sheds some light on the healthy condition of this "invisible America", and throws into relief the "invisible Europe" forming in its wake. Furthermore, in an exclusive interview, Dr Luns, Secretary General to NATO, discusses the question of Europe's defence; and, with the World Cup approaching, Europa also exposes how much German method is making of soccer madness.

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OVERSEAS

Syrians and Israelis make progress in chilly Geneva talks

From Alan McGregor
Geneva, June 2

Israeli and Syrian delegates are making progress, without obvious hitch, in their discussions in Geneva concerning the detailed implementation of the agreement for a disengagement of forces.

They met twice today, morning and evening, the lengthy afternoon recess being apparently to enable them to consult their respective capitals.

A United Nations communiqué said that the talks made "considerable progress in demarcating the different phases of disengagement as represented on a map" and progress was also achieved on other matters. There will be a further meeting tomorrow morning.

If concessions made by the two Governments under the indefatigable promptings of Dr Kissinger were described as painful, the same description could no doubt be applied to the continuing discussions.

The four meetings so far seem to have been devoid of anything remotely resembling the smiles and handshakes that eventually came to mark the proceedings last January in the tent at Kilometer 101 when the Israelis were discussing disengagement with the Egyptians.

Two of the principals have in fact met before in Sinai, General Taha al-Magdoub, of Egypt, and Major-General Hani Shafiq, of Israel. General Magdoub was also in Geneva in December and early January for meetings of the Egypt-Israel military working group, as was Colonel David Diah, the second man in the Israeli team.

Whatever basis of contact they then established does not seem as yet to have reassured itself and certainly not to have been communicated to the Syrian delegation, under Brigadier Adnan Wabid Tayara.

One official claim, however, to have detected, or thought he

did, something like a half nod. So perhaps a gradual defreezing will start before, in conformity with the agreement signed on Friday, the Geneva meetings are concluded by Wednesday.

By then, Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, will be well into his round of discussions in Syria, Jordan, Israel and Egypt.

He is also visiting the United Nations Emergency Force and on his way today from New York to Beirut he stopped in Geneva for talks with General Ensis Silasius, the force commander and chairman of the present meetings of the military working group.

They discussed the role of the new United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (Undof) of 1,240 men which is to police the demilitarized buffer zone between the Israeli and Syrian armies.

In replying to reporters' questions, Dr Waldheim said the breakthrough achieved by Dr Kissinger was a beginning. The main political problem of a solution lay ahead.

He believed that prospects for an overall settlement in the Middle East would depend very much on a satisfactory solution being reached to the problem of the Palestinians.

Certainly, the focus of interest for Arab diplomats is the question of Palestinian participation in a second session of the Geneva peace conference.

But, at this juncture, United Nations security men and local police are giving some attention to ensuring that a minority of Palestinian terrorists' presence does not suddenly manifest itself.

New York, June 2.—Brigadier General Gonzalo Briceño, of Peru, at present serving with the United Nations Emergency Force in Sinai, has been appointed interim commander of Undof, the observation force between Syria and Israel. Undof will initially be made up of Austrian and Peruvian contingents.—Reuter.

Arab guerrillas killed after Galilee manhunt

From Our Correspondent
Tel Aviv, June 2

Israeli troops reportedly killed two armed infiltrators from Lebanon after a manhunt in western Galilee today. Three others, one of whom was apparently wounded, escaped to Lebanese territory, it was reported.

The Israelis have been guarding Galilee closely since the Masalit tragedy last month. Thousands of Jerusalem Arabs this afternoon said they watched Israeli forces bulldoze the home of seven Arab brothers being held on suspicion of murdering a Jerusalem taxi driver and putting a bomb in his cab and placing rockets aimed toward Jerusalem during one of Dr Kissinger's visits.

Marshal Tito lauds town which saved his life

From Dossa Trevisan
Belgrade, June 2

President Tito today visited the central Bosnian town of Drvar, where 30 years ago he had his closest escape from occupying troops in World War Two.

Wearing marshal's uniform, the wartime partisan leader, now aged 82, recalled how about 1,000 young partisans and residents of Drvar gave their lives to delay German paratroopers as they closed in on a mountain cave where he and other leaders of the Yugoslav resistance had their headquarters.

In a nationally televised ceremony, President Tito gave the award of Yugoslav Hero to the town, winding up manoeuvres in which military units joined conflict with 200 Yugoslav paratroopers in a reconstruction of the battle.

Mr Rabinowitz to be Israel Finance Minister

From Our Correspondent
Tel Aviv, June 2

Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Israel Prime Minister, is to introduce his new Government in Parliament tomorrow. Finally he found a minister willing to pilot the country's shaky economy.

Mr Yehoshua Rabinowitz, Minister of Housing, accepted the finance portfolio today after considerable pressure. Mr Abraham Hofor will replace Mr Rabinowitz in the Housing Ministry.

The outlook for the Israel economy is grim. The Bank of Israel last week forecast an average price increase that might exceed 35 per cent in 1974.

Chinese posters attack provincial leaders

From David Bonavia
Canton, June 2

A campaign of wall posters criticising management staff in factories, communities and administrative offices has recently begun in the Canton area of China, according to local sources.

Those whose "errors" are coming under fire are some cases being denounced as "sworn followers" of the late Marshal Lin Biao, the sources state.

However, the city seemed relaxed today as Mr Edward Heath was given a mass send-off at the railway station on his way to Hongkong.

The wall posters in Canton are apparently confined to the interiors of buildings and courtyards. I saw none in streets in the city centre.

There is nothing in Canton to match the extraordinary ferment which appeared to be taking place in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province, where Mr Heath was yesterday.

Huge banners were strung across main streets there, denouncing leading members of the provincial revolutionary committee.—Mr Heath's hosts.

There was no indication that the public dissatisfaction in Kunming had anything to do with Mr Heath's visit. But Mr Chen Kang, a vice-chairman of the revolutionary committee, who was at the side throughout the visit, was the main target of his overthrust. His name was written upside down and

crossed out in red, which is a severe insult.

Among others criticized by name were Mr Wang Pi-cheng, also a vice-chairman of the committee, and a Mr Tan Pu-ching, who had been described in detail, as far as could be seen from a car window, but the posters were attracting large crowds in the city centre.

One referred to a "restorationist faction" in the committee, and there were references to a directive from the authorities in Peking which appeared to be dated May 18, though its contents were not clear.

The contrast between political conditions in Kunming and Canton illustrates the considerable amount of regional autonomy which exists in China. This point is underlined by the fact that even the presence of an honoured guest who had been received by Chairman Mao Tse-tung did not deter the people of Canton from criticising his political struggle in front of him and a British press party of over a dozen.

In Canton Mr Heath was met and fêted by Mr Chao Tsung, who recently re-emerged as first party secretary for Kwangtung province after a period of political eclipse during the Cultural Revolution. He was the most senior official to receive Mr Heath anywhere outside Peking and his appearance underlined the determination of the authorities to put civilian administrators back into leading posts in the eight military regions whose commanders were rebuffed

Assassination plot casts no shadows as a young monarch takes throne of his Himalayan kingdom

The Dragon King is enthroned in Bhutan

From Michael Hornsby
Thimphu, Bhutan, June 2

Singye Wangchuk was ceremonially enthroned here today as the fourth hereditary ruler—Druk Gyalpo (Dragon King)—of the remote Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan amid scenes of medieval pomp and colour.

The disclosure by the Government last month of an alleged plot to assassinate the 18-year-old monarch was not allowed to cast any shadow over the ceremonies, which took place in the Tashichhodzong, the impressive stone and wood fortress that dominates Thimphu, the capital.

Just after 9 am, at the auspicious hour of the ceremony, the king, seated on a gilded wooden throne, was draped by the Jey Kheempo (head lama) with a scarf of five colours, traditionally worn by kings of Bhutan.

The ceremony, with elements of ancient Bhutanese ritual, took its present form only in 1907, when Sir Ugyen Wangchuk, the present king's great-grandfather, became the first hereditary ruler of Bhutan and founded the Wangchuk dynasty.

The royal crown, surmounted by a raven's head representing the protective Buddhist deity and decorated by a motif of skulls and flames, is not a necessary component of a Bhutanese coronation and the king chose not to wear it on this occasion.

Various articles of special religious and spiritual significance were offered to the king after the presentation of the Royal scarf. These included a gold and silver mirror for wisdom and knowledge; curds for purity; grass shoots for enlightenment and longevity and white mustard seed for victory over evil spirits.

This was followed by the offering of different kinds of food and tea to the gods, with the king and his guests gathered in the heavily gilded wood-paneled throne room. Dignitaries from 16 countries then presented white ceremonial scarves to the young monarch.

The guests included the Presidents of India and Bangladesh, the Chogyal of Sikkim, Bhutan's small neighbour, the King of Nepal's brother, and the Delhi heads of mission of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

Earlier, preceded by capering dancers and helmeted warriors in richly brocaded silk costumes of scarlet, gold and



King Jigme Singye Wangchuk wearing the Raven Crown of Bhutan.

tourquoise, the king wearing the kimonolike khoun entered the inner courtyard of the great fortress to the sound of chanted mantras (sacred texts), clashing cymbals, drums and the low rumbling of immensely long Alpine-style horns.

The central white stone tower, surmounted by elaborately carved wooden balconies and pagoda-like roofs, which dominates the courtyard, was hung with a huge Buddhist tanka (religious painting on a banner) depicting the saint, who is said to have brought Buddhism to Bhutan from India, by way of Tibet, in the eighth century.

At a brief ceremony in the courtyard before he entered the throne room, the king was served with rice, which he had first been tasted symbolically by attendants as a precaution against poisoning.

The alleged plot to kill the

young King was disclosed for the first time last month. According to the May 12 issue of the official weekly bulletin of the Royal Bhutan Government, 30 people were arrested in connexion with the plot about two months ago.

Those arrested included the deputy Home Minister and the commander of the Royal Bhutan police.

The Government also disclosed that "a large cache of arms, ammunition, hand grenades and poison" has been seized.

The Government claimed that the aim of the plot was to replace the King with the son of one Yangki, a Tibetan woman who enjoyed considerable influence during the reign of the previous monarch, King Jigme Dorji Wangchuk, the present king's father, whose concubine she was alleged to have been. She is now said to have taken refuge in India.

Superiors say Jesuit can continue as Nixon aide

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, June 2

Father John McLaughlin has made his peace with the Society of Jesus. His superiors have decided that he can continue to live in the Watergate building complex in Washington and make speeches defending the President and that he may continue to work for the White House as special assistant.

They were not so sure a few weeks ago. Father McLaughlin had studied the version of the Watergate tapes edited and published by the White House and had concluded that the (expletives deleted) and (characterizations deleted) were perfectly harmless, moral and in no way reprehensible.

His superiors, including the Very Reverend Father Richard Cleary, Provincial of the Jesuits in New England, had their doubts. Father Cleary, observing that other versions of the transcripts showed that many of the deleted expletives took the name of the Lord in vain, concluded that he had found no abrogation of the Third Commandment and neither had President Nixon or Father McLaughlin.

He also had doubts about the

compatibility of Father McLaughlin's vows of poverty with life in the Watergate, an exceedingly smart block of flats near the Kennedy Centre, where many Republican dignitaries live. The Democrats "are thought decidedly out of place there in 1972. They have since left."

Father McLaughlin is known to the unkind as President Nixon's resident exorcist. He writes and delivers speeches and gives interview after interview holding the President and all his works with the utmost vigour, candour and total lack of moderation. He defends the President and his works and his (expletives deleted) and proposes to continue doing so. He is one of the most colourful members of the last square of defenders around the White House, doing their duty by the President as the enemies close in.

Father Cleary had no wish to seem to be joining the attack when he issued a gentle statement suggesting that Father McLaughlin might usefully get in touch with him and might even go into retreat for a while. The ways of the Society are mysterious (and partly the absoluteness of its discipline has somewhat lessened) and now all is well.

Mr Whitlam's majority cut to five seats

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, June 2

The expected Labour majority in the House of Representatives of seven seats was reduced to five today by a surprise result in the last seat to be counted, Stirling in Western Australia.

But the first count a week ago, Mr Graham Reece, the Labour candidate, was four votes ahead of Mr Robert Viner, the Liberal.

When the recount began yesterday, however, additional votes from an Army post in New Guinea were admitted and these went Mr Viner's way, giving him a majority of 11—26,934 to 26,923. The state of the parties in the House, therefore, is Labour 68, Liberal Country Party 61.

But that does not appear to be the end of it. The chief electoral officer in Western Australia is to adjudicate upon more than 100 votes. The defeated candidate may also appeal to the Court of Disputed Returns and as there have been

Malaysian policy of uniting races backed by China

From Our Correspondent
Kuala Lumpur, June 2

Tun Abdul Razak, the Malaysian Prime Minister, said on his return from China today that Malaysia's prestige had never been higher. The success of its foreign policy was "internationally recognized."

An excited crowd of supporters was at the airport to meet his aircraft and tonight he addressed a huge National Front rally on the significance of his visit to Peking. During his visit, Malaysia and China signed an agreement on diplomatic relations which will lead to an exchange of ambassadors within six months.

Referring to his comment in Shanghai that "agreement on nationality" was the most satisfying feature of his discussions with the Chinese leaders, Tun Razak said today that China had agreed to "several far-reaching and perhaps historic commitments with regard to the overseas Chinese."

In a reference to the Chinese who make up 37 per cent of Malaysia's population, Tun Razak added that China had agreed to "forge a united nation from our diverse racial groups."

He concluded: "The People's Republic of China believes that the destiny of the overseas Chinese lies nowhere else than in and with the countries and the peoples that they have lived with for so long, that they should integrate themselves in the countries of their residence and that they should form an integral part of the local society and not consider themselves separate from it."

People of Chinese origin who had taken Malaysian nationality were automatically not Chinese

In brief

Kenyatta threat to crush rival

Nairobi, June 2.—President Kenyatta says he will physically "crush" any person who attempts to form a rival political party to contest Kenya's coming general elections.

The President, speaking at a rally marking the eleventh anniversary of the nation's attainment of self-government, said he understood that some "disenchanted parliamentarians" were behind the planning of a new party.

Gin duel kills three

Fort Walton Beach, Florida, June 2.—The bartender who refereed a gin drinking contest in which the two drinkers died of grief after the losing drinker might be prosecuted for manslaughter for officiating at the contest.

OAU chief resigning

Addis Ababa, June 2.—Mr Nzo Ekangaki, the secretary-general of the Organization of African Unity, is resigning for personal reasons at the end of August. He has held the office for two years.

12 die in bus crash

Istanbul, June 2.—Twelve people were killed when a bus filled with students crashed into a city street in the south Aegean town of Denizli. Another 24 were injured.

Drug traffickers shot

Tehran, June 2.—Two people convicted by military tribunals of trafficking in heroin were executed by firing squad here today, the Iranian authorities announced.—Agence France Presse.

New Premier named

Luxembourg, June 2.—Grand Duke Jean today asked M Gaston Thorn, his Foreign Minister, to form a new government to replace the outgoing Cabinet of M Pierre Werner.

Avalanche kills two

Briançon, June 2.—Two unnamed climbers were killed today when an avalanche swept them off the 6,700ft Calotte des Aiguilles in the French Alps near here.

Typhoid epidemic

Berlin, June 2.—The number of typhoid cases among students at the University of Göttingen rose to 18 today, the city's health authorities announced.

UN warning on low level of world food stock

From Our Own Correspondent
Rome, June 2

The present uncertainty in the world food situation is one of the principal elements in the crisis analysed in a United Nations document issued here today.

The origins of the present crisis, according to this paper, go back to 1972 when the output of cereals (wheat, coarse grains and rice) in the world declined for the first time in more than 20 years and by a large amount—33 million tons.

This sudden drop in 1972 created a heavy deficit at a time when the North American countries were already engaged in projects for reducing their big surpluses.

The 1973 harvests were reasonably good, but not sufficient to prevent a further fall in export stocks. If the 1974 harvests are as abundant as they are expected to be, then stocks can be partially replenished but more than one good season is necessary to bring them back to safe levels.

nationals, he said, and there was no future in Malaysia for people whose loyalties were divided.

Tun Razak's satisfaction on this point seemed to derive from the personal assurances he received from Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Mr Chou En-lai, the Chinese Prime Minister.

In the past Malaysia has criticised China for expressing such sentiments publicly while continuing privately to regard the overseas Chinese as its concern.

On Malaysia's 220,000 stateless residents of Chinese origin, Tun Razak said their problem would be discussed after diplomatic relations were established.

If they wished to become citizens of China they could do so, and those with the status of permanent residents could continue to stay in Malaysia.

A Shanghai report published today quoted Tun Razak as saying there was "nothing China would accept" these people as citizens, it was "not particularly anxious to have them."

Tun Razak also said today that Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Mr Chou En-lai had told him that Malaysia's internal problem and that each country's social system was for its own people to decide.

In Singapore on Friday Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Singapore Prime Minister, said that China's relations with Malaysia in the immediate future would probably be "impeccable" to ensure diplomatic relations with other south-east Asian countries. China's immediate interest in this region was to check Soviet influence, and it could afford to wait before widening its activities.

Women's Appointments also on page 26

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7

Thanet

Partners retain identity in new marriage of convenience

by Christopher Warman
Local Government
Correspondent

The task facing the new Thanet District Council under local government reorganization was to bring together several different kinds of local authorities, including three boroughs proud of their identity and independence, into one compatible unit. Many of the new local authorities have had considerable difficulty in achieving a similar aim, but Thanet has been fortunate.

The area has two advantages which have enabled the new authority to arrange a successful marriage of convenience rather than the shotgun wedding forced on other districts in Britain. First, Thanet is an easily definable unit, created by the bifurcation of the river Stour; second, it is a predominantly urban area where there has been cooperation for some years between its constituent towns.

Thanet district is made up of the former boroughs of Margate and Ramsgate, the urban district of Broadstairs and St Peter, and the parishes of Acol, Minster, Monkton, and St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre and Eastway rural districts.

The three main towns are all resorts, and have common problems and aims. Over the years they have joined forces on the provision of water, they share crematorium duties laid down by the Cremation Act, and they have a joint computer centre. Those examples of their previous cooperation show how natural was their marriage on April 1.

Preparations for the wedding had been in progress for many months, since the "shadow" new authority was elected last June. The council quickly appointed its chief executive, Mr Ian Gill, the young Town Clerk of Dover. Although still work-

ing for Dover, he spent a good deal of time from July, when he was given the post, preparing for the big day. Seven directors were appointed for the various spheres of council activity. Five of them had served with one or other of the three big authorities making up the district, which helped to maintain continuity in the new organization. The directors are for the technical, financial, administrative, environmental, planning, housing and amenities departments—the last demonstrating the importance of the holiday resorts to the future of the district.

Looking back at those early months, councillors and officers alike remember the enormous amount of time spent considering every detail of the new organization. At the time it seemed they were being too fussy, but they believe now that they are reaping the benefits: everyone knows, collectively and individually, exactly what he is meant to be doing.

Like so many other new authorities, Thanet District Council is having to make do with the council buildings spread all over the area, used by the old authorities. But Margate, the new administrative centre, already had buildings planned as part of a large civic centre, and it is hoped that, despite recent building delays, the new offices will be ready in the late autumn.

That will help to bring about the streamlining that was one of the reasons for reorganization. Another was to end the proliferation of small authorities no longer able to cope with modern needs. Thanet may be the amalgamation of several smaller parts, but those smaller parts live still through their mayors. Indeed, the new council agreed that Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs, concentrating on attracting visitors—be they

holidaymakers or conference delegates—need their "social" mayors.

So the council members for Margate, granted its borough charter in 1857, and for Ramsgate, where the charter dates from 1884, were accorded the status of charter trustees with the function of looking after their charters and electing their own mayors. The Government granted Broadstairs its request to become a "successor" parish within the district, and it too appoints a mayor.

Added to these the chairman of the new district—Mr H. Anish, former Mayor of Margate—and the chairmen of the parish councils, which survive reorganization, and there is the intriguing prospect of Thanet's civic dignitaries tripping over each other on the way to their respective functions. The district has, however, welcomed the creation of these civic successors to ensure the continuation of the ceremonial, historical and social links of the areas they serve.

Their existence allays any fears among local people that the new district's creation would lead to a loss of identity by the parts. Councillors and officers see the separate identities, with common objects, forming the basis for a strong united whole.

Thanet District Council was given delegated powers by Kent County Council over highways—a prize many other districts have failed to win—and over certain other matters, such as libraries. The districts generally lost powers through reorganization, but Thanet, having accepted the loss, is pleased with the level of agency gained.

At first after April 1 the aim was to maintain services at their existing level, and this has meant bringing them to a uniform standard over the district. Now a de-



The three main towns of the new Thanet district are all resorts: Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs. Above: the marine sands and clock tower at Margate. Right: the beach and open-air swimming pool at Ramsgate. Broadstairs (below) is smaller and quieter. The picture shows Viking Bay.

tailed reappraisal of all the services is in progress.

The new council wants to give equal weight to the important leisure industry and to industrial and commercial development. There again a detailed survey is under way, and the initial findings show the two to be complementary. It is easier to attract commercial interest if the amenities are good.

More than 30 per cent of the population are retired, and this emphasizes the need to retain the younger people as well as attract new faces. The council believes that in the past there has been a tendency to look on leisure as just for the visitors. Increasingly amenities are being planned with the resident population in mind as much as the holidaymakers.

The programme of the new district council, planned in the months before April 1, is now under way. In the first month, the authority secured 100 completions in its £7m housing project, buying into the private sector. "We are way ahead of the Greater London Council in this," the council men say confidently, two reasons for believing that adding that such a project

could not have been so effective until the local authority had sufficient size and resources.

One of the main intentions has been to go out to the people to explain council policies. An experiment in public consultation is to start soon. A plan has been put before the council for a 70-acre caravan and leisure centre just inland from Margate, and it has been decided to hold a public forum before the planning committee decides its attitude. All the district councillors have been invited to attend, to learn the views of the local people.

The first few weeks have been hectic, particularly for the council's officers. There has been a flood of planning applications, many from people waiting until the new council came into being and some from those trying again after being rejected by the old councils.

It is too early to assess whether the 116,000 people of Thanet are benefiting from the new regime. Mr Anish hopes the whole area will benefit in time. Mr Gill gives two reasons for believing that

in a compact area where despite cooperation in the past each part has tended to seek its own solutions, there is the chance to plan properly for the whole area. Second, "this district has assumed full responsibility for the community, for the quality of life, beyond what it has to do under reorganization. We are, for example, considering the aftercare of patients—although we do not have to. This is novel."

Finally, like the good salesman a modern chief executive has to be, he declares: "We have a marvellous product to promote. It is an excellent package."

Expanding industry in holiday playground

by William S. Evans

A wireless operator taking part in a Nato exercise signals headquarters: a girl models a swimsuit; a young wife plays tennis; teenagers trigger funfair machines; and men and boys are rapt in a model railway. All have something in common. Their clothing or the equipment they are using may well have been made in Thanet, the sunny hub of Kent coast that now balances tourism with industry.

In recent years all these products—and many more ranging from sausages to fluid handling equipment for marine use—have put Thanet on the industrial map. Spearheading the one-time seaside's bid for diversification is a three-man economic development unit headed by Mr Colin Perkin, aged 40, who explains

radically: "Thanet is a fringe area of the swinging south-east." Matching aims to resources. While governments past and present give Thanet "a sympathetic ear", Mr Perkin and the council's management team know their task can be more practical. "Our first task is to identify the needs of the area", he says. "That means accepting a loyalty to existing employers, for it is no use trying to attract a firm that will merely compete for labour with those already here."

Within weeks of taking office the council embarked on a four-stage economic survey. The aim was to assemble statistics, break them down into age groups, fields of employment and so forth and to petition employers for information about their firms. Finally, they intend to select the five most promising areas for development and marry-up their requirements with the labour available.

By the autumn we hope to have found the pattern that growth should take—whether in the fields of industry, offices, leisure or any other category", Mr Perkin adds. Without casual resources to dilute policy previous councils have sought diversity in industry. Only that way, they reasoned, could any firm expect a fair slice of the work force.

Margate council, in the early fifties, led the industrial way to what is traditionally a summer holiday area. At Westwood 27 acres were developed, followed by another 23 acres in the sixties. Only two acres, which could accommodate another 30,000 sq ft of factory floor, are unoccupied.

The once open fields are flanked by the first two arrivals. Klinger of Margate moved into a purpose-built factory in 1952. With 280 employees, mainly men, it is one of the country's largest factories making children's socks for chain stores. There have been machinery and employment expansions in each of the past five years.

Along the road is Rover. Its factory, established soon after Klinger's, exports millions of toys to 50 countries topped by Australia and EEC; it also caters for a huge home market. Rover is part of the giant Dunlop-Comber-Marx group, with brand names like Hornby, Scalextric and Frog. Serv-

enitive per cent of the 1500 workers—including about 750 part-timers—are women.

The factory has had to be extended three times in 20 years, and now occupies 133,000 sq ft. Last year a £1m was spent covering another 64,000 sq ft was opened.

Rank Hilger, part of Rank Precision Industries, producing scientific analytical instruments in a 101,000 sq ft floor space, employs 350 staff. Originally Hilger & Watts, which came to Margate in 1961, it became Rank's in 1969 and is now the group's only analytical instrument factory. A new office block was added last year.

A new estate at Tivoli Road, near the seaford, offers, in six acres, about 60,000 sq ft for industry.

At Ramsgate the late council were also proud of their industrial success. At Haine there was originally a private development, whose eight acres are almost complete. Here the variety of firms includes Alfred Crompton Amusement

Machines. One of its proudest contracts, a £250,000 order, gained last year, for making over 1,000 arcade games machines, some worth £1,600 each, for Japan.

Racal, the electronics group, opened its Whitestall Road factory only nine months ago with eight people. Now it employs more than 100 and the group's chairman, Mr E. T. Harrison, has announced plans for a new 60,000 sq ft factory on the Ramsgate Industrial Estate, which it hopes to open by mid-1975. Business worth more than £3m, mainly for the export market, has already been directed to Thanet and the group's expansion will lead to more jobs.

Factory sites on old airport

The new estate is on a disused commercial airport and is probably Thanet's industrial trump card. There are 50 acres and, though an agreement with Arrowcroft Investments, the council's partners in the project, allows a third for warehousing, there is plenty of flexibility. "We are in a fairly advanced situation, with several agreements under discussion", Mr Perkin says. A former dog racing track provided 25,000 sq ft for Neilbarden, the swimwear and beachwear firm which exports to 100 countries. It employs about 180 but this is one industry that, according to the chairman, Mr Derek Horsnell, has problems. "Because there is no nucleus of suitable unemployed local people we have opened two more factories in Scotland", he says.

Richborough, rich in acreage, is just outside Thanet but vital in employment terms. On the Sandwich road, it boasts several factories, including Pfizer (pharmaceuticals), Haffenden (diesel generators and welding equipment), which attract large numbers of Thanet workers. Special buses are laid on and, in practice, staffs scarcely realize they are leaving Thanet to travel to work.

Richborough draws a large percentage of its labour from Thanet so it is important, in strategic planning, that the county considers it in the context of Thanet employment and land availability. In the whole of east Kent", Mr Perkin says. Part of Thanet's economy is played by Ramsgate harbour, whose intake of Volk-

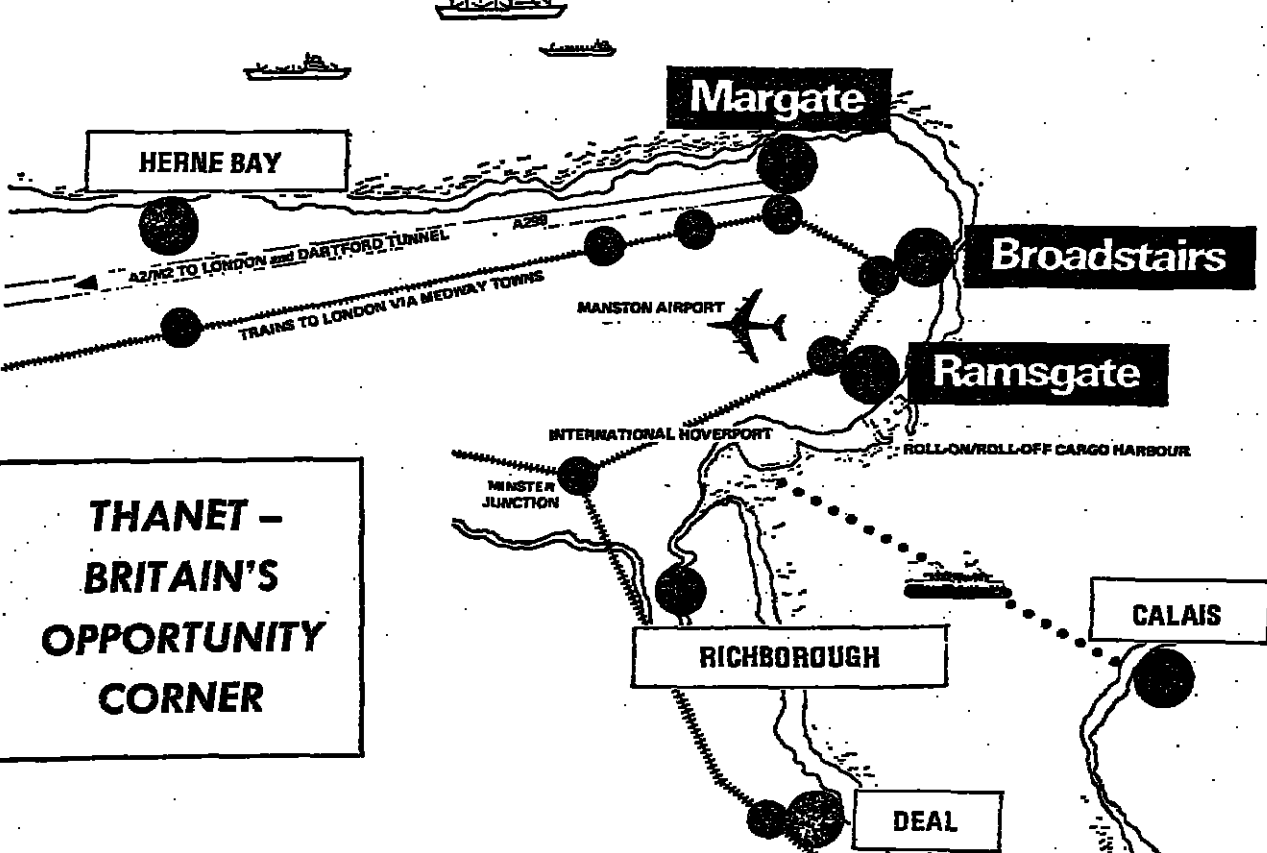
swagen cars accounts for 55 per cent of the firm's British imports.

There is also a roll-on, roll-off container service with Flushing carrying some produce of British Leyland, Ford, Chrysler and Vauxhall. The council hopes to build these into a viable two-way traffic.

If one man can claim to have started Thanet's post-war industrial surge it is Mr Harry Anish who, in 1946, is Thanet council's chairman.

Behind the golden sands....

THANET OFFERS PROSPECTS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL GROWTH



Renowned for years past as a holiday playground for thousands of summer visitors to the beaches and bays of Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs, Thanet is now winning itself a reputation as a centre for industrial, warehouse and office development. It makes business sense. This pleasant corner of Kent is the nearest part of England to Continental Europe, to our trading partners in the Common Market. There is land for firms to settle and to grow.

Existing cross-Channel transport facilities—Ramsgate Harbour, Manston Airport, Ramsgate Harbour and the nearby Dover Harbour—and the projected Channel Tunnel all point to Thanet as a launching pad to EEC trading. The A2/M2 provides a fast road route from London... and the Dartford Tunnel a

way of avoiding the metropolis for rapid communications with the Midlands and the North. Fast rail services to London link to all parts of the country.

What better place to invite key staff to re-locate? Residents as well as visitors enjoy the healthy, sunny climate, beach and sea at the doorstep, the wide choice of restaurants and entertainments, and the lovely countryside of East Kent.

And the holidays scene is bustling forward alongside the commercial growth. In the pipeline are plans for a marina at Margate, major expansion of leisure boating facilities at Ramsgate Harbour and a big caravan and entertainment complex. For conference organisers, Thanet can offer the facilities of Ramsgate and Broadstairs as well as the established conference centre at Margate.

If you want to know more about the industrial and commercial possibilities, contact:

Colin Perkin, Economic Development Officer, Thanet District Council, P.O. Box No. 9, Margate, Kent. Tel: Thanet 22201

For holiday and conference information:

Publicity Manager, Information Centre, Marine Terrace, Margate, Kent. Tel: Thanet 20241

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Speed, price and ease of access are factors in hoverport's success

Five years ago the Duke of Edinburgh, surveying a wide stretch of unpretentious seashore at Pegwell Bay, Ramsgate, opened the world's first custom-built international hoverport. In 1969 two hovercraft carried 300,000 passengers to Calais and back. Last year, using three Mountbatten class SRN4 Mk-2 vehicles, 777,000 were carried and 120,000 motor vehicles.

Each of the craft, named Swift, Sure and St. Christopher (the latter after Sir Christopher Cockfield, the inventor), carries 278 passengers and an average of 36 cars a trip. The 200 tons aden weight allows a 50-knot cruising speed and up to 70 knots in the best weather conditions. Time taken to cross the 20½ nautical miles from Ramsgate to Calais is scheduled at 40 minutes, often cut to half an hour.

"Sixty per cent of our passengers are British, the rest mainly French, Dutch, Belgians and Germans. But we cater for many Americans who find our service fascinating. They ask a lot of questions and their cameras are always at the ready. They have never seen anything quite like it," Mr. Howard Archdeacon, Hoverport's customer services director, says.

Though they compete with British Rail Seafair at Dover, Hoverport are confident that their £10m investment at Ramsgate was right. They are not unduly worried about a Channel tunnel. "We think many would find it claustrophobic and prefer the sea trip. But we have two positive cards to play: competitive prices and speed."

Costs only £3.90 for a day return trip to Calais and four round trips a day are stepped up to a maximum of 21 during the summer peak season. Hoverport say it takes passengers one hour 20 minutes, including customs and passport formalities, to clear both terminals. "That is considerably less than half the time of conventional

transport," Mr. Archdeacon points out.

An arrangement with the East Kent Road Car Company provides a daily London-Ramsgate coach service, linking the capital in eight hours 15 minutes while a similar service started this year between London and Brussels in seven hours.

A vital reason for the site at Pegwell Bay was the ease of access compared with Dover, less than 20 miles away. The route from London to Pegwell Bay misses heavily built-up areas and, leaving the M20, the roads are superior. Many people who used Dover for years come back after one trip from here. It is personal recommendation that helped us to expand.

The hoverport aids employment on Thanet. More than 90 per cent of the 300 permanent staff and about 200 seasonal workers live locally. The numbers of men and women working there are about equal.

Two miles from Pegwell Bay is Manston, famous for its role as an airfield in the Battle of Britain. The Royal Air Force retains a firm grip, the Ministry of Defence, having equipped it with modern landing aids and emergency generators. A 5,000ft runway, one of the longest in South-east England, can cope with anything—even Concorde.

Until 1969 Inverclyde Airways carried about 350,000 passengers a year to and from the Continent. In the peak 1960s period the total was nearer 500,000. Then the passenger business was moved to the East Midlands Airport. Mr. Hugh Kennard, Inverclyde's managing director, bought back his company's assets in 1969 and took over the Manston staff.

He and associate C. J. Stevens formed a new firm, Inverclyde Airways, later national Airlines, which took into the passenger business, but this is now run from Luton while Manston remains



One of Hoverport's craft at rest at Pegwell Bay, Ramsgate. The hoverport buildings—the world's first custom-built international hoverport—are seen beyond the replica of a Viking vessel in the foreground.

a freight centre.

Today the five Vanguards and two Boeing 707-720Bs are used almost entirely for freight, flying mainly to North and West Africa, the Middle East and Europe. On a typical day fruit and vegetables are unloaded, some from Cyprus, while a storage hangar is filled with machin-

ery and household goods awaiting export. Meat and livestock are other outgoing commodities. Last year 10 million kilograms of freight was carried.

Manston, which has a 24-hour customs service, is also an inland clearing depot for TIR traffic, taking the pressure off space at Dover. "In

1973, as part of expansion, we joined the European ferries group. Since 1969 business has grown rapidly. By the end of this year it will be 16 times what it was then," Mr. Kennard predicts.

Will passengers return to Manston? "There is a big opportunity now and several tours operators are consider-

ing it. We can offer a lot of scope. Access from London is very good, weather conditions are excellent, there is a ample runway, and a good deal of open country around us," he says.

Manston is also the base for the coastguard search and rescue service operated by Bristow Helicopters. In three

years the two Westland Whirlwinds have answered more than 500 "scrambles", lifted about 170 people to safety and accounted for 20 more already dead. The service covers the Suffolk coast from Orfordness, the Thames Estuary, to Beachy Head in Sussex, and out to the French and Belgian coasts. W.S.E.

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Contrasting resorts are complementary—a boost for tourist trade

by Patrick O'Leary

Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs, set in 20 miles of sandy coast, are relieved of being united in the new district of Thanet. Instead of competing fiercely for holiday business, trying to be all things to all tourists, they can be themselves, and complement each other.

Central Margate, although the town does not boast a "downmarket" air, "Come on in, we have special prizes for honeymoon couples", the bingo hall tells seafaring passengers. In wakes weeks, coaches bring package parties from the North.

The social balance is redressed by some of the big hotels and boarding houses of Cliftonville, and the commuter estates and retirement bungalows in Birchington and Westgate-on-Sea. Day-trippers rarely ripple the calm of these suburbs of Margate.

Round the coast, Ramsgate is typified by the cloud of spray heading for the horizon, which hides an air-cushion craft bound for France. The town is more than by the sea, it puts to sea. Yachts fill the inner harbour, and the Royal Ramsgate Inverclyde Angling Association puts on a full programme for visitors. Troops to fight at Waterloo embarked at Ramsgate, and survivors from the Dunkirk beaches landed there in 1940.

Between its two big neighbours, Broadstairs remains

essentially the quiet watering place to which Charles Dickens retired so often to write and relax. The town has many sturdy cottages of flint and chalk, while later buildings show delicate balconies and railings—cast iron seemed to bring out the best in Victorian artists.

Mr. Heath is among Broadstairs' famous sons, and Mr. Hugh Scallan is reported to have bought a house there. Some residents feel this is carrying confrontation too far.

Mr. Peter Logan, the publicity manager for Thanet until moving to Torbay this month, said the contrast between the two towns has proved an advantage in promoting holiday trade. The population of the area doubles in the season.

More people were making day trips to France, he said. Among the attractions advertised are visits to the Calais Hypermarket. But the numbers crossing from the Continent on shopping sprees had dropped slightly since the British cost of living rose.

However, Mr. Logan said, tourists were using the ferries to bring cars over and stay for a week or more. For the first time, it would, however, be a courageous child who made the same point to an angry teacher.

Mr. K. Kneeshaw, chairman of the Isle of Thanet Federation of Hotel Associations, with more than 1,500 members, said bookings seemed to be up this year on fast. "We had been worried about the possible effect of

the 'three-day week', he said. "A holiday is the first luxury people give up."

"Of a more traditional pastime," Mr. Logan said, "the 20-acre amusement park, retains its popularity, it is always introducing fresh ideas."

Margate Winter Gardens, with seats for 1,800, attracts conferences, including the annual meetings of unions. "There are good hotels at Ramsgate and Broadstairs."

Proposals have been made for building a 350ft skystower near the front at Margate. But the town's pier and harbour company has announced that its iron jetty will be closed to the public at the end of the season because of rising maintenance costs. The shore end of the jetty will continue to operate, and a marina development for this area of the shore is being considered.

To prolong the short season, many hotels offer special rates to pensioners in May and September. There are also reductions for families in June. Sponsors of this idea point out that pensioners are entitled by law to take their schoolchildren on holiday for up to two weeks in term-time. It would, however, be a courageous child who made the same point to an angry teacher.

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A popular place for retirement

About 30 per cent of Thanet's population is of pensionable age. Not quite a record for south-east Kent, since Herne Bay is believed to have 31 per cent.

There are several reasons. In spite of the lurch in the property market since the boom days, prices of bungalows, semi-detached houses, and flats still seem noticeably cheaper than in London's suburbs. Years of development have also produced a wide range of accommodation, from the small modern house at Westgate-on-Sea which the resigned owners have called "It'll Do", to the secluded mansion at Broadstairs with Effendi on the gate.

A hotelier said: "This is an estate agents' paradise." But he may have been describing a day that is past. "The movement of detached houses at £14,000 to £15,000 has been very slow in the last six months", one agent commented.

He agreed, however, that he had quite a few inquiries from people wanting to retire to the area. "There was tremendous activity in the past two years, with big old houses being converted into flats", he said. "But this has been affected by the change of policy over grants, and difficulties over arranging mortgages on converted properties." On the other hand, he thought the currency crisis and dearer petrol had led to increased demand for holiday flats.

Pensioners also settle in Thanet because of its almost legendary reputation as a health resort. The Royal Sea Bathing Hospital was founded at Margate in 1791. When chest diseases often went with genteel poverty, this area was popular with patients who could not afford to go to Switzerland.

But perhaps the strongest reason for the steady supply of settlers is that so many get to like the area when there on holiday, often returning year after year. The numbers have been increased by the reduced rates for pensioners taking hol-

days outside the busiest season.

Mr. J. Wingate, who is responsible for social services provided by the county in the Thanet district, said he felt holiday visits might not be the best way to choose a place for retirement. "A place can look very attractive on a day trip, or a fortnight's holiday. Generally the visitors have been saving up, so they are not short of money."

But in winter it can be bleak, with the wind coming off the North Sea. The pensioner may not even be able to go out. In summer everybody is on holiday, they are merry and willing to talk to strangers. In winter it is a different story.

Mr. Wingate said he thought people retiring should first take the trouble to put some roots down in their chosen town. They should be ready to join a bowls club, or the Women's Institute. It was also advisable to seek unsolicited advice on the general problems faced by people who stopped work and moved away from families and friends.

A recurring tragedy encountered by Mr. Wingate and his colleagues is that of the couple who settle at the seaside when the man retires, and after a few months one partner dies—generally the husband. The survivor may be left completely alone.

Pressure on social services in the area has been increased by the number of former hotels and large houses turned into old people's homes, convalescent centres, and homes for the mentally handicapped.

For example, it has been found that there are not enough chiropodists to meet demand. On some doctors' lists, half the patients are elderly. Mr. Wingate said voluntary service organisations in Thanet found that in the main they had to recruit help from people who were themselves in the early years of retirement.

Whatever the hazards, it seems unlikely that people will stop retiring to the coast. It is said that only when one local authority put a virtual ban on building bungalows did the numbers decrease. But now some couples prefer to live in a flat, anyway.

P.O.L.

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Never too big to be friendly

A legal view of the lessons to be learned from the Poulson affair

Why we must have an anti-corruption agency

The terms of reference of Lord Redcliffe-Maud's Committee, set up by Mr Heath in October, 1973, were restricted to the examination of present local government law and practice, and did not include the police; nor (as stated at paragraph 4 of its report) was it its purpose to investigate past events or specific allegations of misconduct, except in so far as conclusions could be drawn from them relating to the matters it had been asked to consider.

The Committee, however, appears to have felt impelled to make certain recommendations aimed specifically at the better detection and repression of corruption—both as to the confidential receipt and investigation of complaints from the public (para 156)—and at conferring on the police and on the Director of Public Prosecutions limited new powers to inspect the financial records of persons under investigation (paras 151, 159).

It may, however, be asked whether their suggestions go any distance towards dealing adequately with any future case of the Poulson type. It was that case, and its repercussions, which prompted the setting up of the Committee, and which are currently leading to other socio-political reforms. But if society is to be appropriately armed and defended for the future the

lessons of the Poulson inquiry need to be studied in detail, and in particular the exceptional factors which have led to the results so far achieved, in the shape of the convictions of numerous people formerly holding high positions, and the recovery of very large amounts of money.

The two crucial factors were surely the fact that Mr Poulson became bankrupt, and the massive deployment of police power, on an ad hoc basis, under direct and central control from the highest levels.

The bankruptcy of Mr Poulson and the liquidation of his companies made available to the trustee in bankruptcy and the liquidator those special powers conferred by the Bankruptcy Acts and the Companies Acts both for the public examination of the bankrupt and for the private examination of persons having dealings with the bankrupt or who were officers of the companies, and for the seizure or compulsory disclosure of all relevant documents and records. Although officers of the Customs and Excise and of the Treasury possess certain powers of private questioning and the inspection of books of accounts, these are extremely limited, and the insolvency code is unique in the remedies open to its administrators.

In the event, practically all the

vital documentary evidence used by the prosecution at the Poulson trials, and most of the important admissions there relied upon as evidence against the defendants, were derived directly from bankruptcy and liquidation sources. As Mr Justice Waller said, when sentencing Mr Cunningham and Mr T. Dan Smith on April 26: "The very serious aspect of this case is that this corruption was done so discreetly. If Poulson had not gone bankrupt, none of this would have come out. This is the evil of the situation."

The second crucial factor was the exceptional commitment of police resources. Under the indefatigable leadership of Commander (now Deputy Assistant Commissioner) James Crane, dozens of senior detectives were drafted into the investigation on a larger scale (it is said) than ever known before; groups of officers were allocated to each major suspect or group of suspects or to specific "provinces" of the inquiry, and the documentary evidence—amounting in the case of the trustee alone to nearly 40 tons—was copied, folded and meticulously analysed. So effective, indeed, over the years, were these two factors in combination that after Mr Poulson and Mr Pottinger, who pleaded not guilty at their trial, had been convicted, every defen-

dant subsequently arraigned has pleaded guilty.

Can society hope to be so fortunate on any future comparable occasion, as to have a principal in the corruption network for whom the police have unlimited resources available to allocate? Should not society rather consider the feasibility of setting up, subject to all due safeguards for justice, a permanent organ of administration to investigate corruption—starting with the processing of reports or allegations received from public or private sources—an organ which might be called the Central Anti-Corruption Agency? Such an agency would need to have conferred upon it powers of interrogation analogous to those available in bankruptcy and liquidation, and comparable with, though far more extensive than, those already exercised by the Customs and Excise and the Treasury, including the examination of documents and the inspection of financial records recommended by the Redcliffe-Maud Committee.

The agency would have a permanent specialist staff drawn from the police, accountancy, legal, local government and other appropriate sources and reinforced from outside for any particularly heavy caseload. The

lack of such investigative staff at the disposal of the Director of Public Prosecutions is noted in the Redcliffe-Maud Report (of para 157). Such lack may in part explain the inability of his office to go into those audit reports to the detriment of Mr Poulson, which were made to the Director as we now learn, as early as 1968. Being an agency with a national area of jurisdiction it would not be subject to the local obstacles or embarrassments which may perhaps have arisen in County Durham, and if, as would seem advisable, it were to report direct to the Prime Minister, as does the Security Service, it might be saved from other embarrassments.

The agency would need to be established by statute, perhaps on a periodically renewable basis like the Law Commission, and subject to a degree of control by or sanction from the courts, as is suggested by the Redcliffe-Maud Committee in their proposals (at para 160) as to inspection of financial records.

One of the lessons of the Poulson affair has been the interlocking of a number of aspects or branches of the case, and of the activities of its principals, carried on in widely separated parts of the country, or in other parts of the world. From this point of view, the agency would surely be in a far better position

to survey and to collate data relating to any known or suspected corrupt activity on such a scale as the Metropolitan Police or any regional police authority.

Finally, the agency would be the most appropriate depository for the vast mass of Poulson archives, which, after the eventual conclusion of the Poulson bankruptcy, will need to be placed somewhere where they may still be of service to society, and harm none but the wrongdoer. There is no doubt a great deal still to be learned from a further study of those legends of files as to the manner in which public servants may be tempted (whether successfully or not) and how they and society may best be defended—material which could not be made available to Lord Redcliffe-Maud and his colleagues.

The establishment, by due process of law and with all necessary protective provisions, of such a Central Anti-Corruption Agency might prove to be the most enduring and worthwhile monument to the misadventures of the past two years.

A Special Correspondent

The battle of Europe goes on at Westminster

From the first day that Labour came to power, it was clear that there were two battles to be fought on Europe—one in Brussels and one in Westminster, and that it was the Westminster battle which was likely to prove decisive in whether Britain stayed in the European Community or pulled out.

Certainly that was the view of the man who has most influence on the matter, Mr James Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary. He did not disguise his objective from the moment he took office. It was—as it is now—to hold the Labour Party together on the European issue.

He gives the impression himself of being neither pro nor anti-Europe, in a philosophical sense. Yes, he would prefer Britain to stay in on balance. But what he really cares about is preserving the unity of the Labour Party: no more splits, nor more public slanging on the issue. When that is achieved, he will probably—so Mr Callaghan to present the results of his endeavours in Europe, he wants to carry the party with him, yes or no.

If anyone should complain that this is a rather narrow objective for a Foreign Minister to set himself, on the major issue of policy facing the nation, it may be noted that Mr Callaghan has a reputation as a shrewd political operator; as he himself would put it, a general without troops is no use to anyone.

Mr Callaghan was bound to start by sounding very unenthusiastic about the Community. The party expected it, and the election manifesto, which he regarded as holy writ on the subject, line by line, enshrined the party's destructive feelings on Europe.

The experts in Whitehall had no doubts that the narrow objective was to carry out the terms of the manifesto, with no ifs and buts. It is an instructive example of how the Civil Service buckles to when from one day to another it suddenly has new masters. Accordingly, much ink and much midnight oil was expended on translating the manifesto into practical objectives. A special committee of ministers, with Mr Wilson in the chair, was formed in January on the negotiating position.

This was the battle of Westminster, (round one). It was tough going. It is not exactly a state secret that some Labour ministers are anti and some are pro a certain European agreement. The one who knows Mr Peter Shore would expect him to change his spots. But it may be that the anxieties felt about safeguarding British sovereignty, Mr Wilson's Poles' fundamental objection to men-

bership, have been allayed somewhat by the very clear signs that the Community is not hellbent on a political federation—far from it.

The essential difference on renegotiation was that the extreme critics wanted to force a break with Community rules and regulations, the sharper the better, while the majority favoured effecting changes within the Community framework, with as little disruption as possible. It will continue to be tough going because European policy raises deep-seated doctrinal issues every single day, and it is always possible to go with, or against, the grain.

Mr Callaghan has convinced the Foreign Office, which has overall charge, that when he said he wanted to make renegotiation a success, he meant it. His opening bid will not be seen until he sets out his aims and needs in detail in Luxembourg tomorrow. But it appears that, however many changes are sought, Britain's interests within the community's own system rather than seeking to overturn it.

The battle in the Community itself is now about to commence. The general feeling in Brussels is that everyone will be ready to give Britain a helping hand, but our demands are reasonable, but that the French, as usual, hold the key.

It is too soon to guess how M. Giscard d'Estaing's government will react. If French officials insist on every score, they will risk losing the lot, because Mr Callaghan has still got to win the battle of Westminster (round two), which means that he must in a position to tell his party he has secured significant reductions in Britain's contribution.

It is easy to argue the case in principle that Britain will be paying too much, but hard to prove it in practice. So much depends on assumptions about imports and world food prices and currency movements. While the Community would, no doubt, be ready to agree that it would be a fair reimbursement, Mr Callaghan is obviously going to need practical guarantees to convince the Labour Party.

The final battle will be fought at the end of the renegotiation, with a White Paper showing how far on this and the other terms of the Labour manifesto in fact—the terms have been changed. If Mr Wilson and Mr Callaghan approve, they will have to carry their colleagues, then the party and finally the country. It is a long haul, but the first round at least puts the possibility of a successful outcome within reach.

David Spanier



Japanese schoolboys in a military salute to the Emperor, 1934.

Military spectre rises in Japan

Almost three decades after a blindly obedient Japan was carried into a disastrous war by her fanatical generals, the country is still haunted by an obsessive fear that the spectre of military revivalism continues to lurk beneath the fabric of the country's modern and democratic institutions.

The memories of the catastrophe, born of a rigid faith in martial values, are so strong and bitter today that a powerful lobby or pacifists tends to challenge the slightest, even imagined trend which would revive or strengthen the militant nationalism of pre-war Japan.

Attempts to expand the country's armed services, described euphemistically as "self defence forces", have been constantly frustrated by a popular outcry and any move which might enhance the position of the Emperor, the former symbol of Japanese nationalism, has provoked a tangle of bitter controversies in recent years.

It is no wonder, then, that against this background two recent attempts by the Government to rekindle a sense of nationalism in Japan have touched off a bitter debate across the country.

Essentially this resurrection of the ghost of Japanese militarism was precipitated by the return of a wartime intelligence officer, Lieutenant Hiroo Onoda, who spent 29 years hiding in jungle in the Philippines after he and a small group of fanatical soldiers refused to accept Japan's defeat at the end of the Pacific war.

Although Japan is generally imbued with a feeling of revulsion against its older generation's prewar values, Lieutenant Onoda was given a rousing welcome when he returned home recently. Admiration for his endurance and devotion to duty, made the Japanese forget, albeit temporarily, that this un-

fortunate man was a product of a system which still underpins confidence in the establishment. To the older Japanese he represented the spirit of the Samurai (country right or wrong).

But this deceptive mood of euphoria was brought to a halt when the Government, apparently misreading feelings in the country, attempted to reintroduce two controversial pieces of legislation which pacifists believe will revive Japan's previous spirit of rigid nationalism.

First, the Prime Minister, Mr Kakuei Tanaka, announced that he would attempt to give the country's national flag, "the Rising Sun" and the national anthem official status, which they do not enjoy at the moment. With the reminder that the flag and national anthem, a song which extols the power of the Emperor, were used to conjure up emotional nationalism during the last war, pacifists, educationists and intellectuals have taken up cudgels against the proposed measures. The Government has, for the present, dropped its proposals.

But the most bitter debate has been touched off by the Government's decision to reintroduce measures which will bring the famous Yasukuni shrine, the former rallying point of Japanese nationalism, under the financial control of the state again. The furor erupted when the ruling party rammed a five-year-old draft Bill through parliament, a committee, ignoring the vociferous protests of the opposition, religious leaders and the pacifist lobby.

According to the terms of Japan's postwar constitution, which forbids the state from subsidising religious sects, the Yasukuni shrine is registered as a private organisation. In reality the shrine acts today as an unofficial monument to Japan's war dead and the Government, under pressure from millions of bereaved rela-

tives, claims that it simply intends to change the law to allow the state to subsidize this function. Pacifists allege that the proposed Bill will violate the terms of the constitution and revive a spirit of militarism.

Although the proposed Bill is in reality unlikely to encourage a new mood of militant nationalism in today's Japan, one can readily understand the sensitivity of the younger generation when the history of the controversial shrine is taken into account.

Established in 1869 on the crest of Kudan Hill, behind the Imperial Palace in central Tokyo, the Shinto shrine was first exploited as a rallying point to transfer the loyalties of the people away from feudal warlords towards the Emperor, and as such it encouraged the practice of emperor-worship and soon became the emotional centre of militant nationalism.

Until the American occupation forces denationalized the shrine at the end of the war, it was subsidised by the state, dedicated to the resting place of the souls of Japanese servicemen who died during wars of the last century.

While a small group of nationalists (who still believe that the Emperor is divine) are fighting to reinstate the shrine as a national institution, pacifists have joined hands with Christians and Buddhists who are challenging the Government's proposed Bill.

Religious leaders, supported by the Opposition and intellectuals claim that if the Government takes over the shrine it will destroy Japan's secular image. But the deputy chief priest at the shrine, Ryohachi Ikeda, says that the Americans have Arlington and the French have the Invalides. Japan should have its own monument.

Peter Hazelhurst

Is Ulster heading towards a Protestant dictatorship?

Belfast, June 2.

If Northern Ireland ever comes to an end, it will be because the Protestants started fighting the British—Lord Craigavon, 1922.

In retrospect, it is not really surprising that Mr Tam Dalyell, MP, should have turned up in Belfast with such unseemly haste this afternoon. After all, how better to understand the possibilities of disengagement than to visit the house in Hawthornden Road, with its tatty palm trees and lichen covered urns, to talk to the men who may prove architects of British withdrawal? Those Westminster MPs who are increasingly worried about the continuing drift for Ireland, and who remember Lord Craigavon's presidential remarks, may even be tempted to treat the events of the past two weeks—privately, of course—as a godsend.

Although the theory looks remarkably simple. There should be elections in Northern Ireland to a new constituent assembly where Protestants and Catholics could meet and decide on their future government without the interference of either London or Dublin. The Rev Ian Paisley stated categorically outside Stormont Castle last week—and not by chance—he would sit down with an IRA man providing the latter had a mandate at the polls.

For the Provisionals, this scheme of things looks mighty attractive. Like the loyalists, they want an end to intervention without trial and an end to emergency legislation. Like the loyalists, they say they want peace between the two communities.

Most persuasive of all for Catholic extremists, however, and here is the catch—the Protestants do not want Britain at the conference table. The suggestion that London should be left out of such discussions was a staple of the Provisionals of all species, not unlike that of Pavlov's dogs. And they simply forget that Dublin will not be there either.

Mr Paisley's colleagues have meanwhile been arguing that they will not share power with the SDLP, and that in any case the Catholic party may have lost its electoral support in this month's political debacle. This may well be true, and could lead to disaster for the Catholics. Nothing would please the loyalists more than a split Catholic vote, the resulting destruction of the SDLP, and a divided minority turning up to

a new assembly where they would receive short shrift for their pains.

If anyone doubts the determination of the Protestants or trusts too innocently the protestations of loyalist benevolence, he has only to remember the events of the last fortnight. For what happened in Belfast—and eventually in every part of Ulster—was not just a general strike, the inevitable protest of an angry majority. It was in effect a coup d'état. It was a good thing it was not, for the pursued to its logical conclusion and because the Army—the complicating factor in any United Kingdom rebellion—was not deployed against the loyalists. But for several days every man, woman and child in Northern Ireland had their lives controlled by a small group of men in Hawthornden Road. The Ulster Workers' Council decided when they should have light, heat, transport, milk, bread, water and employment. At the UWC headquarters, although it was never officially disclosed, makeshift desks were set up for fuel, power and agriculture. The latter was a "ministry" in the gift of a prominent UDA leader.

It was impossible to live in Belfast and avoid the feeling that Europe had witnessed a frighteningly similar phenomenon 40 years ago. A middle-aged UDA man, asked by a journalist last week if the loyalist strike was not a precursor of fascism, replied immediately by telling of how he had fought his way across Normandy with the British in order to rid France of the Nazis. Yet a German Jewish woman married to an Ulsterman admitted that she had been having constant nightmares as she remembered the Brownshirts of her childhood days.

An American correspondent, a veteran of European reporting, negotiated his way past dozens of masked men to arrive at one of Belfast's largest hotels last week and the editor of a suitable explosive, that he had been haunted by his memories of Weimar.

Even the business community, the men whom the government believed would support the loyalists, showed they could not all be trusted. The manager of one of Northern Ireland's leading industries turned up at the UWC offices last week and the shopkeepers and the small businessmen who were waiting for their passes that they should support the strike. He need not have

bothered, because some of them were already chatting enthusiastically to the UVF men at the gate.

This, provides an important clue to a remark which Mr Rees, Secretary of State, made at his faltering press conference on Friday. For when he said that there was no doubt the strike had received overwhelming support "from all sections in the Protestant community", he was in fact questioning one of the "principles" upon which British policy in Ulster has been founded these past five years: that there is a vast majority of peace-loving, moderate folk in Northern Ireland whose only desire is to live in peace.

The "British Government" is now wondering whether the silent majority—the men and women to whom Mr William Whitelaw appealed two years ago—ever existed. Silent majorities do not win wars.


If the British should decree fresh elections, one can only guess at the results, but the aspirations for a united Ireland would have to be crushed by an independent administration. If the republicans could not be forced to pay allegiance to a new state and when they came up to their point, they almost certainly would not wish to do so—then a predominantly Protestant government with or without British economic support, would return to the scene, mentally which has governed so much of the last history. Pieces of Ulster in which the IRA, who themselves support a form of fascism, were too strong might have to be stripped off to leave such a state capable of handling its subversives, who would, by the nature of the conflict, turn out to be Catholics.

Many of the men behind the running of the strike are, it must be said, neither wicked nor politically immoral, and cannot imagine themselves as dictators. Mr Wilson may have chosen to call them. But they cannot see the political risks of supporting a kind of independence which would demand the exclusive allegiance of every Catholic Ulster. The SDLP long came to the conclusion that this promise was a trick, but in the end the British will have to decide.

Unlike Weimar, Ulster is governed from outside its frontiers. The integrity of the union, and the political integrity of Northern Ireland's party leaders, must be judged eventually by the MPs at Westminster.

Robert Fisk





As to the manor born.

Much lies behind the name Mouton-Cadet: superb wines, hard work, great experience and the Rothschild association, with all that that implies. Mouton-Cadet is a true claret wine from Bordeaux vineyards carefully selected and scrupulously balanced at Pauillac in the Médoc. A process under the personal scrutiny of Mouton Rothschild's own head cellar-master. Result? A magnificent claret: light, dry and aristocratic, delicate, subtle and satisfying.

MOUTON-CADET

APPELLATION D'ORIGINE CONTRÔLÉE

The problem of what to do with the hunger-striking Price has stirred memories of her days in the suffragette movement for one 81-year-old reader. To prevent imprisoned law-breakers from achieving martyrdom through hunger strikes, the embarrassed Asquith Government passed what came to be known as the Cat and Mouse Act.

The Prisoners (Temporary Discharge for Ill-Health) Act of 1913, to give it its proper title, allowed for the release of suffragettes on the basis of starvation. The despised Act did have a catch, however. It allowed for the subject to be rearrested once she had returned to her home and dining table.

Yvonne Middleton, a portrait photographer, who describes herself as "a rather inferior suffragette at the time", wonders if there is a lesson to be learned from Asquith's expediency.

"It would be better than letting them die, that's very certain", she said. "Perhaps such an Act would not be applicable to the Price sisters because they are rather dangerous, but then people thought the suffragettes were dangerous." The Home Office, however, are unenthusiastic about Mrs Middleton's plan.

Uncomplicated

What more pleasant way, I thought, to spend Sunday lunch-time than to meet a French starlet in the Penthouse Suite of the Dorchester Hotel? I hardly ever meet starlets, and my mental image of these functions derives largely from those black-and-white films on television, where reporters with

The Times Diary

Bring back the Cat and Mouse?

tickets sticking out of their hats to out-evince each other for as they ask highly-decorated women about their future plans.

In the lift I met a man with a wide-brimmed hat but no ticket sticking out, so half the image was sustained. When I arrived he was wearing a velvet smoking jacket, a candy-striped toweling wrap and a little make-up, was draping herself in front of the fountain of cherubs and spouting water-pots in the roof garden.

Photographers made her pick a single flower from a rhododendron and hold it in her hand and then, for heavens sake, in her teeth. This she bore with admirable good humour, but finally declined to pose on the edge of the goldfish pond and went indoors.

Miss Clément is best known as a model and unflappability is part of her style. As the press release says: "Her complete lack of any kind of complex is a refreshing change for everyone who meets her," which I suppose depends on who else they know. Language difficulties caused confusion over whether her mother had been a nun for 30

years and had been 15 when Aurora was born, whether she had been a nun for 13 years and was 50 at the birth. It appeared that the latter interpretation was correct. We do know for certain, because the Press released this information, that her father was found on a Normandy beach when he was five, the only survivor of a shipwreck.

"So you have a dramatic background?" hazarded a back-slash "dramatic background" muttered a press agent. "That's good. I like that."

Miss Clément is here for this week's opening of her first film, *Lacoste Lucien*, directed by Louis Malle, in which she plays a Jewish girl who gets involved with a member of the Gestapo during the Occupation. She is staying in Britain for a month to try to improve her English, because she thinks that way fortune lies. She wants to give up modelling and do films full time.

"There are only three French directors," she said. "Malle, Truffaut and Godard. Therefore there is not much opportunity in French films. It is better in London and New York."

Possession

There is more trouble in New York over a valuable work of art. A painting of a woman, said to have been stolen abroad and then sold to an American collector. This time it is an eleventh-century Indian statue of Shiva, which was taken from Sivaturam in South India and has ended up in the collection of Norton Simon, a rich and prolific Californian art collector. Simon paid a million dollars for it. The trouble arose because the

Metropolitan Museum of New York planned to put on an exhibition of Simon's Asian collection. The Shiva statue, known as Nataraja, was to have been included in it. But the Indian Embassy asked the Metropolitan to show the Nataraja and the museum agreed not to—much to the annoyance of the Norton Simon Foundation, which threatened to take legal action against it.

Thomas Hoving, director of the Metropolitan, has been talking a blandly virtuous line about this threat. "We don't mind being sued for good works and ethical behaviour," he said. It is a rather different attitude, as is being pointed out in New York, from one he has had on similar occasions in the past—particularly over the Greek vase which the Metropolitan itself bought in 1972 for about one million dollars, and which the Italians consider to have been smuggled out of Italy.

The BBC have retaliated against my unapish time last week about their planned World Cup television coverage by sending me at least four copies of the Radio Times booklet on the Cup, which contains three full-colour close-ups of Jimmy Hill. All right, all right, I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

Curried rissoles

The shiffs from the Italian, Greek, German and Indian restaurants, clustered in and around Charlotte Street, mingled in the sun as local residents and day trippers celebrated the Fitzrovia Festival on Saturday. Named after the Fitzrovia Tavern

—once the haunt of Wyndham Lewis, Augustus John, Walter Sickert and Dylan Thomas—this is a small area bounded by Euston Road, Oxford Street, Tottenham Court Road and Great Portland Street.

Giggling waitresses from the Spaghetti House compete against some from Bertolotti in a relay race; students from the Middlesex Medical School ran a stretcher race, and a tug-of-war from two pubs had tug-war. A ferocious spaghetti-eating contest was won by a medical student and left restaurant depleted of spaghetti.

A rock band vied with a steel band and a discotheque set in the street, and members of a Polish dance troupe in national dress took turns with several groups of Morris dancers. There was some street theatre—local residents, at £2 a gallon, quantities of famous (curry rissoles) supplied by the Krishna Curry House around the corner.

Two readers submitted pictures of today's confusing road signs which they spotted in Charlotte Street. This prize is from June 10th of Hitchin.

PHS



TARTING AGAIN IN ULSTER

cks may now be expected to ear in the inter-party agree- at at Westminster, which has n support and continuity to n policy up to its present n of frustration. That is bably no bad thing. It is fine responsible politicians in parties agree about the dom of something. It is not good when their sense of possibility prompts them to g to their accord while events t doubt upon their judgment. hat way government loses ch with reality, as it is now ent, it has done in Ulster. nway, whether it is to be omed or not, the Commons ot be expected to preserve previous extent of its like- edness while it examines ists' recent conduct of Irish sirs—going back beyond the ruary General Election ch, whatever the justification its timing in the context of politics of England, Scotland Wales, was disastrous for the stitutional arrangements in rthern Ireland.

he best way of finding out if there is a way forward by that route is to call provincial elec- tions in the late summer. Elections held in preparation for a further attempt to hammer out a constitution would oblige Ulster politicians to define their atti- tudes more clearly, voting strength would be publicly ex- hibited, and United Kingdom ministers would be in no doubt about whom they had to deal with. This time they should give Ulster- men the widest possible latitude to reach their own accommoda- tion. Men as far apart as Mr Paisley and the provisionals claim that, if left to themselves, Ulster- men can come to terms. That is improbable, but it is time the claim was put to the test.

Meanwhile the House of Commons will hear much about a growing popular demand in Britain for bringing back the troops. The manoeuvre is not as easy as it sounds. To withdraw the army while retaining respon- sibility for internal security would not be a rational act. To withdraw the army and reli- quish responsibility for internal security, in other words to cut and run, would be an act of treacherous irresponsibility un- less there was first established a successor regime on a reasonably durable basis with means at its disposal of enforcing internal security. (Or is it suggested that this nation is so irresolute and bankrupt, in statecraft that it dumps its responsibility towards Ulster into the lap of the United Nations?) The only visible suc- cessor regime is a loyalist regime, and the only means it could be given of keeping inter- nal security would be a

sensible to construct a new con- stitution on such ambiguous pre- mises. Perhaps it was necessary if anything was to be constructed at all, and it might have worked given better luck and judgment—or perhaps it was misconceived from the word go and doomed to meet the kind of end it did (though few English politicians and fewer editors are free to say so now without apology). But this much is now clear. As a constitu- tional experiment it is finished. It cannot be made to stand up again. The final defection of the Protestant community was swift, massive, disciplined and decisive. They will not have it, and that is that. If power-sharing is to be re- introduced—and it still looks the best hope for the tranquillity of all the people of Ulster—it will have to be reintroduced on different terms.

Problematical

The new terms for power- sharing (if any are available) will have to exclude all suggestions that Northern Ireland is in a state of potential transition towards incorporation in some all-Ireland polity. That makes the willing- ness or ability of Roman Catholic representatives to participate highly problematical, and it makes them vulnerable to the challenge of militant Republi- canism. Conceivably they may have been sufficiently sobered and impressed by the display of Protestant resolution, and con- ceivably they might respond to magnanimity on the part of the newly acknowledged Protestant leaders, to good internal guaran- tees, and to the offer of a significant role in the administra- tion of the province.

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reconstituted police reserve with firearms. A Labour Government will not want to turn that full circle.

There is also the matter of honouring the constitutional guarantee to the effect that Northern Ireland shall not cease to be part of the United Kingdom in the absence of an expressed wish by the majority of the people of Northern Ireland that it should. The guarantee was first given statutory form by the Attlee Government. There is no explicit condition attached to it, but there is an implied condition, as has been acknowledged by the more thoughtful public repre- sentatives in Ulster. The guaran- tee is primarily for the benefit of Unionists, and the implied condition is that Ulstermen of that persuasion do not systematically flout the reasonable require- ments of the United Kingdom Parliament and Government.

That is not a precise condition, and any lightly entertained asser- tion that it had been breached would rightly attract accusations of bad faith. Nevertheless, cir- cumstances clearly could arise in which the Protestant community of Ulster could justifiably be held to have voided the guaran- tee by their own conduct. The repudiation of the authority of the Crown during the political strike that brought down the Executive was beginning to approach that state of affairs. A settled refusal by a majority of elected representatives of the Protestant community to work the affairs of the Province on any basis other than that which developed out of the 1920 Act would bring the guarantee into question.

Far from simple

However, even if it were decided that the guarantee was no longer in force, the position would be far from simple. Many in Britain might then think that they could be shot of Ulster with a fairly clear conscience. And they would be fortified in that by observing that a British presence in Ulster seemed to be incapable of doing the Province any good. But supposing the people of Ulster were not of the same mind. Supposing the majority wanted integration in, say, whatever post- Kilbrandon form is found for Scotland. The procedure of extruding a province from the Kingdom against the will of most of its inhabitants, unless at the dictation of another more power- ful state, is a very strange one. Is there anywhere an historical precedent for it?

It would almost certainly be necessary to write for a majority of the people of Ulster themselves to conclude that it would be better to make the break, probably into some form of independence and probably with a redrawn land frontier. But the upheaval and resentment that would cause, and the risk of an Irish civil war, to say nothing of the braking power of the manifold social and economic links with Britain, suggest that some time and much more agony would have to be gone through in the Province before any such conclusion was reached. Frustrating as it is for all concerned, there is no early or easy end to the historical intercourse by which for eight centuries the rulers of England have troubled and been troubled by the Irish.

With the best of intentions, to secure the objective of power sharing, it has denied the majority its inherent power. Although Ulster has been denied its own Parliament, it has been under-represented at Westminster. Although neither of the two main parties sees merit for proportional representation in Britain, both adopted it for Ulster to give minority parties more places in the assembly, and while they still failed to outflank the Unionist majority, they gerrymandered the Executive to give effect to equality between Unionists and minority parties.

Meanwhile, the Ulster Unionist party in the Commons was broken. Mr Wilson crudely threatened it during the 1964-66 Parliament by challenging its right to vote on steel nationalization; and Mr Orme, now the Minister of State with procon- sular powers at Stormont, in 1965 was one of the sponsors of the Campaign for Democracy, the civil rights movement that prepared the ground the IRA later exploited. Today there is not an official Ulster Unionist MP in the House of Commons, although there are 11 Protestants.

Right or wrong, over a period of at least nine years, Westminster has pursued policies to break the Protestant ascendancy over Ulster. Nor have the policies brought peace and reconciliation to the province. The terror of the bullet and the bomb still reigns.

The uses of industrial power

From Mr Robert Jackson
Sir, The Prime Minister is reported to have said of the Ulster Workers' Council on May 29 that "you cannot negotiate with people—it is like a group of workers holding the country to ransom not on something they feel strongly about—on wages and so on—but saying that people must pull out of the Commonwealth, so into a Republic".

Clearly Mr Wilson has been experiencing some difficulty in find- ing a ground of principle upon which to distinguish between the proper and the improper use of industrial power. The doctrine implied in his statement on the UWC seems to be that it is proper for a group of workers "to hold the country to ransom" on "something they feel strongly about"; but that such a group is only entitled to feel strongly about "wages and so on".

The purpose of this doctrine is presumably to find a principle which condemns the use of industrial power by the UWC while justifying the Labour Party's complaisant attitude to the use of industrial power to press against changes in the law relating to collective bargaining (1971 and 1972), to secure an exemption from the operation of incomes policy regulations approved by Par- liament, and to resist the ruling of a Court (1974).

Mr Wilson appears to have in mind a distinction between two separate areas of activity, the "economic" and the "political"; in one of which industrial power may properly be used, but not in the other. But while such a distinction served Mr Baldwin well at the time of the General Strike, against the back- ground of a liberal capitalist society it surely cannot fit the realities of

the social-democratic state under which we now live. Full employ- ment and the growth of the public sector—not to mention counter- inflation policy—have in effect "politicized" the entire economy and abolished the nineteenth-century distinction between the sphere of politics and the autonomous sphere of economics.

In the circumstances it is surely more appropriate to define the limits of the proper use of industrial power in terms of a different distinction: between that area of social activity of any kind which is covered by rules made through the democratic process—in which political action is alone appropriate—and that area in which no such rules have been laid down.

Wise politics on the part of any Government of course requires that the rules that are made through the democratic process should take due account of political realities and of the need for consent. But at the same time the subject has a duty to consider the propriety of his with- holding his consent; and it is clear that on the basis of the distinction outlined above the use of industrial power against the Industrial Rela- tions Act and its operation was improper, and that the miners' strike was at least of doubtful propriety. The only way in which justification could be found for such actions might be by disputing the legitimacy of the constitutional and political order itself, as much if not more so than the same defence is surely not open to trade union leaders, and their supporters, on this side of the Irish Sea.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT JACKSON,
All Souls College, Oxford.
May 31.

Salary levels: burden of responsibility

From Mr John Arkell
Sir, Inflation, Mr Grimond declares (May 20), is the responsibility of "some men at the top of the estab- lishment". Does he mean, among others, the entire race of pro- fessional and salaried chairmen and managing directors who, he would have us believe, "whatever their blunders and losses, do not resign, often push up their salaries and per- quisites, and never take account of the needs of the community?"

No doubt there are numerous people who would like to have "cars, secretaries and free jaunts abroad" but how many would be capable of the enormous burden of great responsibility with all the strain and anxiety it entails? As for "free jaunts" this is a strange way to describe the exhausting and endless world travel that intense international competition thrusts upon top executives.

Mr Grimond also ventures into the complex area of salary compar- isons. He cites the low pay of nurses for which there is massive sympathy but totally overlooks the fact that in any fair sized organization in whatever industry, and in whatever including a hospital, there needs to be a salary structure reflecting the various levels of responsibility of the various posts. The differentials between the levels should clearly reflect both the responsibilities and the responsibilities and the economic make promotion from the level below meaningful in terms of spendable money.

Financial reward is not the only incentive for the professional man- ager who has the job satisfaction of leadership, but it is certainly one—especially when it compensates for the strains and sacrifices involved. If the salary relativities between different levels of responsi- bility are to mean something in net earnings, then the basic situation itself forces up to a relatively high level the gross salaries in higher management.

It is clear from the BIM National Management Salary Survey pub- lished today (May 29) that the in- cidence of plays up an increasingly large part in the whole picture. Moreover, the net take-home pay of executives in Britain is on the low side compared to that of other Euro- pean countries.

I yield to no one in my concern for the problems facing the em- ployer, but I do not believe in my judgment managers in this country have suffered more from most from an erosion of their living standards over the past few years, and the differentials between those who make the decisions and those whose job it is to carry them out are fast decreasing.

I have a great respect for Mr Grimond's strong sense of compas- sion, but I think he would become a more effective advocate if he would join the rest of us in the twentieth century and shed some of his extra- ordinary misconceptions about the function and worth of the modern professional manager.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ARKELL,
Chairman of Council,
British Institute of Management,
Management House,
Parker Street, WC2.
May 29.

Institutional reform

From Mr James Robertson
Sir, Many of the people who have written to you in response to Mr Grimond (May 20) assume that we have to choose either to distribute wealth and incomes more fairly or to give greater encouragement to personal enterprise and initiative. Is this not a false choice? Do we not need a programme of institutional reform that will help to make our society both fairer and economically more successful?

Company law is now badly out of date; remote shareholders cause "absentee landlord" problems for large corporations; small private companies which are the source of many points of enterprise and inno- vation are discouraged. The financial system favours big people against small, borrowers against savers, and those who speculate in existing assets against those who invest productively.

The tax and social security systems pervasively combine economic ineffi- ciency with social unfairness; in the richer, the middle and the poorer reaches of society alike they penalize thrift and hard work. At the same time, tax concessions and social security benefits often seem to favour those who do not need help more than those who do. The White- hall and Westminster routines for planning and managing public ex- penditure, taxation and government borrowing—and using them openly as instruments for settling social and economic priorities in accordance with public opinion expressed through the media—are years behind the times.

Why are the necessary reforms so slow in coming? We seem to be caught in a trap. Top people—in government, business and finance—believe in the socialist solution which, as it then appeared, would concentrate all property in the hands of the state.

Ulster: need for a reappraisal

From Sir Gilbert Longden
Sir, Discussion of the Northern Ireland imbroglio is bedevilled by the fact that words like "Christian" and "loyal" have joined such words as "democracy" whose meaning depends upon where they are used. I join it to express the hope that there will be no consensus in Parliament for a sudden withdrawal of our forces from Ulster. The Prime Min- ister in his broadcast suggested no such action; but the events of the past few weeks must have caused many people in Great Britain to have second thoughts, and I fear that he was only expressing what most people here are thinking, if not say- ing; and that is a welcome change which surely does not merit criticism.

A nation which breeds parents who can so bring up their daughters that they go berserk at the sight of a pop-star, or who can themselves be- have as the Tottenham "fans" did in England, has no right to criticize others. But if it is true, as all in- formed commentators tell us, that the great majority of the Protestants in Ulster fully supported the general strike ordered by the Ulster Workers' Council, then I think the time has come for a reappraisal. For that strike was avowedly against the law- ful authority of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of which these people claim to want to remain a part.

An overwhelming, all-Party, majority of that Parliament had agreed upon a Constitution which for the first time is fair to all sec- tions, and which includes built-in guarantees, repeated at nauseam by Governments and Oppositions here, not only that there would not be the smallest step towards unity with the Republic, but also that no effec- tive powers would be given to the Council of Ministers of the Province without the consent of a majority in Ulster.

Fifteen months ago I argued that to pull out of Ulster would be "a cowardly abdication of our re- sponsibility towards the peace-loving majority of our fellow-citizens in Ulster". But I would now seem that they will live in peace only if they can do so on their own con- ditions which are not the conditions which their fellow-citizens in the United Kingdom consider to be just.

I therefore venture to repeat the suggestions I made to you, Sir (November 3 and 12, 1971), that there should be an agreed re-alignment of the Border, and assisted resettlement

of people who wish to move north or south of it; and I would now further suggest that, within an agreed period, the territory north of the new Border should become an inde- pendent Protestant State within the Commonwealth; and that during that period, and for not a day longer, our armed forces should continue their thankless task of seeking to protect Ulster lives and property from the barbaric excesses of Ulster- men.

Yours sincerely,
GILBERT LONGDEN,
89 Cornwall Gardens, SW1.

From Mr Julian Amery, Conservative MP for Brighton Pavilion
Sir, May I add the following com- ments to the discussion in your columns on Ulster?

The British Army was sent to Ulster to defend the province against the IRA. The military threat from the IRA has not diminished. Nor has the need for a British military presence.

The disbandment of the B Specials, the uprooting of the old Stormont, the introduction of proportional representation and powersharing and the agreement to revive the Council of Ireland were all designed to create a political climate in which the IRA could not operate.

Whatever the merits of these concessions to the minority com- munity, they have not brought about the result intended. What they have done has been to lose Britain the confidence of the majority com- munity.

The immediate task now, if we are to avoid something near anarchy, is to recover the confidence of the loyalist majority. This requires a firm statement that British forces will stay in Ulster so long as the military threat from the IRA requires. A decision to increase Ulster representation at West- minster, as recommended in the Kilbrandon report, would also go far to convince Ulster that we stand by her union with Britain.

None of this need prevent the search for a constitutional settlement based on the principle of power- sharing, though here we should be wise to remember Lord Salisbury's dictum that "the commonest error in politics is sticking to the carcass of dead policies".

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN AMERY,
House of Commons,
June 2.

President Sadat's record

From Mr Jon Kimche
Sir, After some 30 years of fairly intimate observation of the Middle East, I feel ever more that so many of the miscalculations and misunder- standings during this period were the result of a failure to see the euphoria of the European and American enthusiasts for the Arab cause—and also for the Israelis—than to the errors by Arab and Israeli leaders.

It seems particularly regrettable that one seems to have to add Lord Chalfont to this list of enthusiasts, all the more so since I have been a long-standing admirer of his sharply critical and sane approach to the problems of defence. It is sad that he should not have brought these same invaluable standards to bear in his assessment of the Egyptian position and to the now fashionable elevation of President Sadat as the man most qualified to win the next Nobel peace prize.

For in failing to do so Lord Chalfont does himself precisely what he so rightly detests in Nato and nuclear politics: he subscribes and confirms myths which can only damage the future course of Middle Eastern peace-making. It might be worth recalling that President Sadat's poli- tics did not begin with October 1973 and that the extent of the achieve- ment by the Egyptian forces and the Commander-in-Chief, who Lord Chalfont describes so colour- fully and enthusiastically might be qualified—without in any way deni- grating it—by two valid qualifications.

The Barlev "line" was manned by 600 troops which were in the event overrun by 60,000 Egyptian troops with rather more than one tank and one gun for every Israeli

manning these forward observation posts which have been falsely pub- lished as a kind of Maginot fortifi- cation complex.

2. That what Lord Chalfont calls the element of surprise had, in fact, not fooled the Israeli or the Ameri- can field intelligence. The initial surprise rested almost exclusively on the evaluations made by two senior Israeli officers. But for their insistence on a theoretical precon- ception the whole of President Sadat's elaborate plans might have been misread.

In short, it could again be very misleading—especially for the Egy- ptians—to draw hasty conclusions from so fine a margin between suc- cess and disaster; almost as risky as to base one's conclusions on the public relations face of President Sadat rather than on his record and known views, which over a period of many years did not always tally—in theory or in practice—with the admirable conduct of the use of violence which Lord Chalfont quotes from the much-edited En- glish version of articles written by Mr Sadat in the early fifties.

No one would question Lord Chal- font's concluding advice that Presi- dent Sadat and Egypt's armed forces should be taken seriously—least of all, the many friends and supporters of President Sadat who have fallen foul of him because they did not quite share the enthusiasm of some of the new European—and Ameri- can—admirers of the Egyptian Presi- dent. It may be worth remembering that these non-conformist Egyptians represent an impressive cross- section of Egypt's political, intellec- tual and military society.

Yours sincerely,
JON KIMCHE,
Camilla Lacey Lodge,
Westhumble, Surrey.

The socialist solution

From Professor Antony Flew
Sir, In his interesting piece "G. K. Chesterton: Poet with an historian's eye" (The Times, May 29), Sir Dingle Foot tells us that when he and his friends were young: "We did not believe in the socialist solution which, as it then appeared, would concentrate all property in the hands of the state."

Some readers will surely wonder how they managed to miss the news that the socialist solution has abandoned both the proposals, ratified as late- ly as last year's conference, for what the then Shadow Chancellor then described as a "massive extension of nationalization", and the ultimate intention, stated on every party card, to bring into public ownership all the means of production, distribution and exchange.

But, unfortunately, the Labour Party has not in fact followed the example of the German Social Democratic. It retains, as always, a socialist party. All that has changed is the willingness of Sir Dingle Foot, and others like him, to recognize the facts, and to oppose the continual increase in state control; in the interests perhaps of a redistribution of private wealth and "a property-owning democracy".

Yours faithfully,
ANTONY FLEW,
26 Alexandra Road,
Reading.

School governors

From Mr Peter Targett
Sir, Ronald Butt's interesting article (May 30) about the problems of appointing a headmaster at High- bury Grove School prompts me to ask three questions:

procedure was used—application forms? Statements of experience relevant to the role of governor? References? Interviews, even?

The second query raises the prior question of what sort of special skills a governor ought to bring to bear on his school responsibilities. Ability to interview at executive level? Ability to interpret com- munity feeling? An understanding of educational philosophy? Ability to articulate verbally with some degree of accuracy beliefs and observations?

Finally, to what extent have the governors (who after all will cer- tainly put this question to headship applicants) tried to improve their skills in interviewing, their insights into current education theory and practice, and their knowledge of their own community as well as understanding of the school?

Yours sincerely,
PETER TARGETT, Headmaster,
Soudgate School,
Sussex Way,
Cockfosters,
Hertfordshire,
May 30.

Political honours

From Mr Martin Thompson
Sir, As Sir David Hunt rightly points out (May 30) the Emperor Caligula did not, in fact, make his favourite horse Incitatus Consul. However, it should be borne in mind that the Emperor's extraordinary and appar- ently irrational devotion to his rather controversial protégé, which accord- ing to Suetonius even extended to imposing his stable rest in the neigh- bourhood of its stable rest, it became restful, and his rumoured intention to elevate the animal to high office, must have contributed to his own sudden downfall.

David Wood

The question behind the Irish question

three-party front at West- ster on the Irish question is blinding fast, and more cables hope that Mr Wilson, Mr and Mr Thorpe will be able to repair it during the two-day to opening in the Commons afternoon. It is as much as ally of the Protestant work- ers' Union led by the Ulster Work- Council and the Northern Ire- Executive and the Northern and Assembly. The old Pro- t ascendancy is back, asserting strength outside politics, throw- ing the restraints of government Westminster and Stormont, and vesting of meaning such political ills as power sharing and the dimension. Every West- ter politician knows that the policies, whatever their merit, lead, and that there is only a period in which practicable native policies have to be d.

Nor is it statesmanship when Mr Wilson uses the broad brush to paint Ulstermen as spongers on the people of Britain, or calculates with the niceness of a pet-shop clerk how much every Northern Irish citizen costs the British taxpayer. Utterances of that kind will make bipartisan policy impossible, as Mr William Deedes, one of the surest interpre- ters of Conservative opinion on Ulster, has warned.

This week's debate will lead to no worthwhile or durable adjustment of policy unless the House of Commons accepts, as Mr Mervyn Rees, the Secretary of State, has accepted, that at a popular level there has now occurred a regrouping of Protestant and nationalist forces which owes little or nothing to any established political leaders, and which is capable of resisting any attempt to control it within political channels.

It is easy, on our Westminster view, to see the democratic virtue and the rationality of the policies pursued in turn by Mr Callaghan, Mr Maudling, Mr Whitelaw, Mr Pym and Mr Rees to bring peace, pros- perity and social justice to the province. Perhaps power sharing and the Irish dimension will prove the right answers in the end. But it is now clear that for some time to come they will not carry the assent of the overwhelming majority of the people of Ulster.

Today and tomorrow the House of Commons needs some voices, prefer- ably not Ulster voices, that will risk an objective analysis of how the policies look to the Protestant major- ity with whom the success of any solution, short of British withdrawal and Ulster independence, now rests. Westminster's record has some extraordinary features. Since 1969 it has destroyed three Prime Min- isters of Northern Ireland and one Chief Executive, by forcing a pace of reform and a movement towards the Irish dimension that stripped them of majority support. It has vir- tually ruined the Ulster Unionist Party. It has suspended the Storm- ount Parliament that existed for 50 years; imposed direct rule; created an Executive that could not live and an Assembly that has now been suspended; and has now re- stored direct rule through two fairly junior and inexperienced ministers.

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Nypro disaster threatens major disruption in UK textile industry

Ronald Kershaw
Northern Industrial
Correspondent
Southport, June 2

Production of nylon fibres by
major companies, Courtaulds
and British Enka, faces
disruption as a result of
explosion at the Nypro
K caprolactam manufac-
turing plant at Flixborough, near
Southport, where thousands of workers
in the textile industry will be
affected.

The companies and their cus-
tomers are now faced with ob-
taining alternative supplies of
the raw material or of
oil to maintain production
a time when there are seri-
ous shortages of both inter-
nationally.

Purchase of the materials
on overseas suppliers will in-
volve companies paying sub-
stantially higher prices and will
institute a further burden on
a balance of payments situa-
tion.

Mr Les Grainger, chairman of
Nypro (UK), said that the im-
pact of the disaster would be
serious. The end product of
the plant, caprolactam, was used
in manufacturing nylon.

The Flixborough plant was
one of only two of its kind in Brit-
ain. Its products were used in
textiles and British Enka, and
were pressing for more and
re-supplies and indeed were
contemplating extending their
operations.

The Flixborough plant's
production will directly affect
jobs of thousands of Cour-
taulds and British Enka work-
ers at Spalding, Derby,
Ayr, Liverpool and in
Northern Ireland.

Mr Grainger said: "We are
looking into how we can
manage with replacement mate-
rials." There was, Mr Grainger
said, a world shortage of
raw material.

There was really no way, he
said, of continuing the Flix-
borough production. Another
nylon was produced by ICI,
never, using a different pro-
cess. Mr Grainger said that when
plant was opened it produced
100 tons of caprolactam a
week. This had been increased
to 30,000 tons by opening new
at the Nypro company.

Financial problems kept
hanging over the plant. Last
year, in the first quarter of this
year compared with the pre-
vious quarter and 45 per cent
down on the first quarter of
1973.

According to the Digest, "the
building land market was,
therefore, crucially affected by
the fact that there were too
many houses, either completed
or under construction, for the
present level of effective
demand to absorb."

High interest rates charged
on mortgages have played a
major part in curbing demand
and has particularly affected
first-time home buyers, a sig-
nificant sector of the market.

Government policies are
blamed by the Digest for in-
flating the classic boom and
bust cycle but, more particu-
larly, blames Government atti-
tudes which affected the

house costs expected to
be stable until next year

though the demand for
houses is increasing again,
as are unlikely to rise
next spring.

It is the view of some of
the country's largest building so-
cieties, for the second month
running, that their fortunes continue
to improve.

Applications for mortgages
doubled in the past eight
months as potential home buyers
eager to get a share of the
country's £100m-a-month to
the societies.

Building societies' terms are
becoming more competitive as

Fair trading proposals for service industries

Services such as hairdressing,
window cleaning and advertising
will soon be subject to new
powers outlawing many restric-
tive practices and stepping up
competition.

Mrs Shirley Williams, the
Secretary for Prices and Con-
sumer Protection, will next
month, or soon after, publish
a comprehensive list of service
industries which she intends to
bring under the control of the
Fair Trading Act 1973.

This means that the services
listed, including estate agents,
road hauliers, betting and
gambling shops, employment
agencies and hoteliers, will have
to register any restrictive prac-
tice with Mr John Methven,
Director General of Fair
Trading.

If the director general sus-
pects that the practice may be
against the public interest, he
will refer it to the Restrictive
Practices Court, which may in
turn ban it. Any infringement
of the ban would then consti-
tute contempt of court.

Restrictive practices, which
include not only price-fixing but
also agreed "carving up" of
the market and arrangements
among businessmen restricting
the terms and conditions of sale.

The Department of Prices and
Consumer Protection has no
idea how widespread restrictive
practices are in service indus-
tries. But an official commented
that there was no doubt that
the 1956 Restrictive Trade Prac-
tices Act had brought to an
end "a wide range of diabolical
agreements".

Approval of Mrs Williams's
proposal must be given through
the affirmative order of both
Houses of Parliament. It is
hoped the new law will be on
the statute books before the end
of this year.

No decision has been taken
yet on including professional
services such as lawyers, doc-
tors, dentists and architects
within the scope of the new
proposals.

Food groups
prepare
for review of
Price Code

By Hugh Clayton
Food manufacturers have
started collecting evidence for
the Government's promised
summer review of the price
clauses of the Price and Pay
Code. The Food Manufacturers'
Federation, which represents
500 companies, has asked for
case histories from its mem-
bers.

Mr Ronald Halstead, chair-
man of Becaam Products and
president of the federation, said
its members had two main wor-
ries about the Code.

"I hope we are going to get
some changes on the produc-
tion deduction," he said. The
present code as formulated by
the last government and con-
tinued by the present one pre-
vents manufacturers from pass-
ing on all of their extra costs
in the form of higher prices.

Mr Halstead said that the
recent rigging of threshold
agreements had caused alarm
among food manufacturers.
"The way things are going
much of this will just come out
of our profits."

A further worry was the Gov-
ernment's rule that the price
of a product may not be raised
at intervals of less than three
months unless costs rise very
sharply, or raw materials
account for a high proportion
of costs.

This would place a further
burden on profits by forcing
companies to absorb cost in-
creases for several weeks.

Merchant fleet
at record level

Britain's merchant shipping
fleet, which has been expanding
steadily in recent years, reached
a record level of nearly 50
million tons deadweight at the
beginning of this year.

Figures to be issued shortly
by the United Kingdom Cham-
ber of Shipping will show that
the fleet has almost doubled in
eight years from the 1965 level
of 26.6 million tons dwt.

survey, has already spoken of a
horrifying rise in costs and
other pressures prompting an
uncertainty that has clouded the
outlook for new investment.
Nevertheless, the chemicals in-
dustry has stepped up its spend-
ing on a significant scale.

The last inquiry into manu-
facturing industry's intentions
taken in November and
December, when the energy
crisis damaged confidence.

On the basis of those replies,
only a modest 2 per cent rise in
the volume of investment in
1974 on 1973 was expected, with
a guess that there would be "no
significant change in the volume
of investment" for 1975.

Both the Department of
Industry and the Treasury are
hoping that the bowls of protest
from industry over the Budget's
impact on costs and profitability

BP's buy-back talks with Kuwait break down

Beirut, June 2.—Talks be-
tween the Kuwait government
and British Petroleum and Gulf
Oil over crude oil buy-back
prices have broken down, the
Middle East Economic Survey
said yesterday.

With the failure of an agree-
ment on buy-back prices from
the government of their newly
negotiated 60 per cent share of
the crude, the amount of crude
available to the two companies
will now drop to about 500,000
barrels a day each, from its
previous 1.5 million barrels a
day, the Survey said.

It was commenting on the
decision of the Kuwait govern-
ment to auction 1.25 million
barrels a day of crude oil. This
represents all the government's
available crude under the

newly ratified 60-40 agreement
with the Kuwait Oil Co. which
was formerly jointly owned by
BP and Gulf.

The Survey said the break-
down in talks "does not rule
out the possibility that the two
companies might purchase
some of the government's crude
at a later date".

Before last year's October
war, KOC was lifting about
three million barrels of oil a
day, which was split fifty-fifty
between BP and Gulf.

Kuwait parliament ratified an
agreement in which the govern-
ment took over 60 per cent of
the ownership of KOC leaving
BP and Gulf with 20 per cent
each.

The Survey said Japanese
customers of the two companies
are likely to be affected. It
noted these customers buy
about 400,000 barrels a day of
Kuwait crude.

BP was selling much of its
1.5 million barrels a day to
Exxon and Mobil, and Gulf was
selling a good part of its
1.5 million barrels a day to Shell.

The effect of their Kuwait
supplies now being cut by a
third "would be difficult to
exaggerate", the Survey
claimed.

According to the govern-
ment's announcement, "Bids
for crude oil deliveries for the
second half of 1974 should be
received by the end of June
and those for deliveries in 1975
and beyond by the end of
September".

The Survey said it learned
the Kuwait government had offered
Kuwait a formula modelled on
one reached in Qatar last April.
This would have entailed an
initial price of \$10.737 a barrel,
which is 93 per cent of the
present posted price for light
Arabian crude of \$11.545 a
barrel.

The companies' offer was re-
jected, the Survey said, by a
counter-offer that would have
started at about \$11.046 a
barrel, or roughly 95.7 per cent
of the posted price. The Kuwaiti
also were said to have re-
jected a proposal for 75 days'
credit, which it claimed was too
long a period, when each 30
days' credit is worth about 9
cents a barrel.—AP-Dow Jones.

At the end of the meeting,
the ministers issued the follow-
ing statement: "The Arab
ministers of petroleum reviewed
the developments that have
taken place in the Middle East
since their meeting of March 14
in Tripoli, Libya, and their
meeting in Vienna on March
17 and 18.

"The conferring ministers did
not find any necessity, during
their meeting, for taking any
new decisions. They have
agreed to meet again in Cairo
on July 10.—Reuter.

Sue Masterman writes from the
Bahrain: Reacting to the news
that the Arab oil boycott of The
Netherlands would be continued,
a spokesman for the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs said in the
Bahrain: "Although we have not
been told officially that the boy-
cott will be prolonged, we
gathered earlier that certain
countries were not in favour of
suspending the boycott."

"The only comment we can
give at this moment was given
by the Minister of Foreign
Affairs, Mr. Max van de
Stapel, when he said that he sin-
cerely hoped that the Arab
countries would cease to dis-
criminate against certain mem-
bers of the OPEC."

"The Netherlands' standpoint
on the Middle East situation is
as it always has been, precisely
the same as that of the rest of
the Nine."

change for shares. A full
merger, while seen as an even-
tual possibility, is not yet under
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Texton is an extremely well
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interests in aerospace and elec-
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third largest company in
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\$1,400m (£750m).

The sources said the deal could
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Texton, enabling it to repay in
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Rolls-Royce bankruptcy in 1971
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Offshore wells could be producing more than half world's oil by 1980

By Peter Hill

Offshore oil wells could be producing more than half of the world's total by 1980, compared with the present 18 per cent of production. With this prospect ahead, the Law of the Sea Conference, which begins in Caracas this month under the aegis of the United Nations, is to draw up new regulations governing the exploitation of these reserves.

Industry sources suggest that unproved offshore potential resources are probably at least equal to those on land and almost all of the deposits are located in undersea extensions of the main land masses.

Within a few years fields in the North Sea will be producing from wells at a depth of 120 metres (covered by the United Nations Convention on the Continental Shelf). But according to the latest issue of the authoritative monthly journal, *Petroleum Economist*, geophysical evidence indicates the best prospects are in waters ranging from 200

metres to 3,000 metres, where the producing structures in the outer Continental Shelf and slope are much thicker than in shallower seas.

Apart from the technical problems in drilling at these depths, the lack of any licensing authority governing exploration and production of oil in deeper water could be a serious constraint on the development of these reserves.

The present regulations for exploration of the Continental Shelf are considered unsatisfactory because not only are they open to varying interpretations, but they have not been ratified by the required two-thirds of all states which have become independent since they were drawn up.

In some areas of the western approaches there is disagreement between France and Britain, while off the west coast of Scotland there is a dispute over the island of Rockall between Britain and Ireland.

Further afield, the South China Sea is subject to dispute over the issue of licences; boundaries are being contested by China, Thailand, Cambodia, South and North Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines.

At the weekend the South Vietnamese government announced that it had awarded oil exploration concessions on nine blocks on its continental shelf in the South China Sea to 12 American, Australian, British, Canadian and Japanese companies.

This month oil companies will be invited to take up oil and gas exploration concessions off the west coast of Greenland by Denmark's Ministry for Greenland.

With more than 130 oil companies engaged in oil exploration and production off the coasts of some 80 countries, the need for some international agreement on the development and licensing of offshore concessions will be strongly pressed at the Caracas conference.

Printers told to resist price cuts pressure

By Edward Townsend

Britain's printers were advised by two sources at the weekend not to absorb cost increases "to an unnecessary extent" and to resist pressure to cut prices.

Mr Henry Davy, retiring president of the British Printing Industries Federation, speaking at the federation's annual congress in Harrogate, said some printers had absorbed costs mistakenly, at the expense of future investment and efficiency.

Return on capital of companies participating in the federation's management ratios scheme rose only marginally despite the favourable market conditions in the latter part of 1973, he said.

Mr Alex Jarrett, chairman and chief executive of the Inter-

national Printing Corporation, gave a warning against price-cutting to increase turnover in the next two years before the expected reappearance of growth prospects from 1976.

"If the industry is to survive in a healthy state to reap the benefits of the 1980s, it must be strong enough to resist these pressures and temptations."

Price-cutting without genuine cost reduction was not a good basis for competition, which should be based on quality, service and reliability. The industry should invest in knowledge and skill, raise the quality of its products, improve the fixed asset base and keep abreast of technological development.

In the past year Britain's printing industry, the largest in Europe, which has a net export balance of £55m, its turnover represents 10 per cent of the output of all British manufacturing industry.

Peak output levels mark man-made fibres recovery

Britain's man-made fibres industry returned to peak production levels in April and effectively completed the industry's recovery from the slump which had threatened at the beginning of the year.

Figures issued today by the British Man-Made Fibres Federation show that production during the month was 5 per cent above the average monthly output for 1973.

The federation said that against the encouraging improvement in April, the decline at the end of last month in Ulster was a severe blow

ceded that for the corresponding month of 1973. In April it was 7.6 per cent higher.

The improvement was most pronounced in production of staple fibre where output of 16.7 million kilograms was 2.7 per cent higher than a year earlier. It was also 8 per cent above the average monthly figure for 1973.

The federation said that against the encouraging improvement in April, the decline at the end of last month in Ulster was a severe blow

Successes for executive job-finding

By Clifford Webb

The Department of Employment's newest venture, the separately managed Professional and Executive Recruitment branch (PER), has finished its first complete year of operation with promising results.

Mr Dewi Rees, PER's director, said yesterday: "After a rather sticky start we are now moving from success to success. In the past year we found jobs for 8,000 people, that is more than the whole of the private sector dealing with professional and executive recruitment."

"We have turned over £1.25m and although we are not yet making a profit I am certain we shall do this in 1975-6 and that means we are keeping up with a target which at one stage seemed impossible to many people."

Mr Rees admitted that PER made many mistakes in its early days but said the organization was now developing into one of the most sophisticated in its field.

Since June, 1973, it had introduced charges for employers on a scale varying from £30 to

eight per cent of starting salary for finding suitable candidates. Since October it has been using advertising at the rate of £500,000 a year, most of it paid for by employers.

With 75 per cent of professional recruitment filled by advertising in Britain PER's use of this technique has doubled its success rate.

PER has at present 60,000 candidates on its register and some 20,000 vacancies to fill. About half the candidates are still in employment.

Channel Isles banks turn to local recruiting

Quick disillusionment awaits anyone who imagines that because no passport is needed to travel between the United Kingdom and the Channel Islands, his new office in Jersey or Guernsey can easily be staffed from the mainland.

In fact, both islands operate what are effectively immigration controls through their housing laws, which allow an imported worker to occupy a house on that only if he is considered "essential" to the community.

Despite the growing importance of the finance industry to both islands, the housing authorities by no means accept that banks and professional firms should be allowed to import staff every time they want to expand.

With the acute pressure on housing the definition of essentiality has been tightened up. To get permission to bring in an outsider it must now be shown convincingly that the job is not one that could be done by a local person.

Rather more latitude is given to the clearing banks in recognition of the special part they play in the community and the inevitably labour-intensive nature of their operations.

But even here there is strong resistance to the idea that every

Industry in the Regions

Imported bank clerk should be allowed to have his own house or flat. Jersey now specifically lays down that grades of staff from junior executive downwards should be housed in bank-owned lodgings.

For higher grades the policy in Jersey is that only a top manager can buy a house in his own name. Middle management and what an official described as "senior management of a transitional nature" have to live in houses bought by the bank. In both cases at least £25,000 is expected to be paid for the property—and in practice it often has to be considerably more.

At the same time there is nothing to stop a "residentially qualified" bank employee, ie, someone who has lived in Jersey for 10 years, sharing his flat with up to five non-qualified colleagues, who count as lodgers.

Jersey's insistence on imported staff living in bank-owned property is proving "a real deterrent to recruiting", according to Mr Ray Sidaway, Williams & Glyn's Channel Islands manager.

However, Jersey had its reasons for not wanting transient bank staff to have freely marketable houses. The authorities decided that some of them were helping to inflate prices by buying houses on low-interest loans and selling them at a substantial profit when they left.

Guernsey has also been worried about this situation. Last year the island's housing authority wrote to all banks and finance houses asking them to ensure that "privileged interest loans" to staff were not abused in such ways.

In Guernsey the residential qualification is to have lived in the island between January 1, 1938, and June 30, 1957, and also on July 31, 1968. Anyone else needs a licence to occupy any kind of furnished or unfurnished accommodation, apart from lodgings and a pool of more expensive "open market" houses available to wealthy settlers.

Over the period 1970-72 about 330 "essential worker" licences were granted annually, but Guernsey's housing authority is now trying to cut this figure by a third.

Faced with outside recruitment difficulties that seem likely to get worse rather than better, Channel Islands banks are doing everything they can not only to attract local people into the industry but to train them for executive jobs.

Some of the older-established banks, such as Royal Trust Co of Canada (CI), have already reached the stage where they can move up existing staff and recruit from the bottom.

"We have built up a supervisory staff and most of the time we only have to fill in clerical staff," Mr Bill Brown, the deputy manager, said.

To support the on-the-job training and teaching courses provided by the banks themselves, Jersey's education committee is introducing a full-time two-year course for the National Diploma in Business Studies.

At one time young Channel Islanders who had little hope of advancement unless they were prepared to move to the mainland. To day the position is very different.

In another few years the islands should have a generation of trained bankers. It could be a significant step forward in the islands' development as finance centres.

Edward Owen

Cost-cutting at Chase's Rome branch

From John Earle

Rome, June 2—Chase Manhattan Bank's Rome branch this weekend put into effect a series of restrictions on customers' accounts because of rising costs.

No interest will be paid on current accounts (such payments are normal practice in Italy) unless an average monthly balance is maintained of 2m lire (£1,334). Clients will be asked to maintain in any case a minimum balance of 500,000 lire, falling to 300,000 lire if the average monthly balance is below 2m lire.

On savings deposit accounts no interest will be paid on balances below 1m lire, while on accounts in foreign currency no interest will be paid on monthly balances below \$5,000 or equivalent.

The bank will also no longer handle standing orders for payment of rent, insurance premiums and the like.

A spokesman for the bank said the decision was dictated purely by rising costs. Similar restrictions are understood to have been introduced at Chase Manhattan's other Italian branches in Milan and Bari.

Wool usage maintained

Wool requirements of United Kingdom woven and tufted carpet manufacturers last year exceeded more than 100 million lb for the second year in succession. The United Kingdom branch of the International Wool Secretariat said yesterday that although world demand for wool forced up the price during 1972 and 1973 there had been no appreciable decrease in consumption by British carpet manufacturers.

The IWS said that the very slight change in wool consumption in woven carpets to 89.02 million lb last year from 90.61 million lb the previous year had been balanced

Barclays business customers will pay 25% less bank charges this half year.

For the period January to June 1974, Barclays Bank will give a 25% across-the-board rebate on bank charges to all non-personal customers. The only exceptions will be charges negotiated on an inter bank basis.

The basis of assessment agreed with customers remains unchanged, but the effect will be that some 520,000 of our customers will be charged only 75% of the commission due at the end of June for servicing their accounts.

Mr. Deryk Weyer, Senior General Manager, said: "We feel it is now the turn of trading and industrial customers to benefit. They have had a difficult winter. Three day working has cut production and on top of that costs of energy and raw materials have increased. We believe it is right for us to give some help by temporary rebate in our commission charges."

For further details please ask your local Barclays Manager.

BARCLAYS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Higher off-peak electricity charges

From Mr D. H. A. Tugwell

Sir, Sir Peter Menzies is misleading in his letter of May 28 when he states that the cost of coal and oil burned to produce off-peak electricity has increased just as much as the cost of the coal and oil burned to produce electricity at the standard tariffs.

Electricity at night is generated by the most economic generators with high thermal efficiency. The average thermal efficiency of all the power stations is approximately 28 per cent whereas the most efficient generators have a thermal efficiency of approximately 33 per cent. Therefore, one ton of coal (or oil) burns at night produces about 20 per cent more electricity than that burnt in an average power station and nearly 50 per cent more than that burnt in some of the older power stations. Moreover, a significant percentage of the night load is generated by nuclear power stations which have not been subjected to the huge increase in fuel costs of the conventional power stations. The percentage of nuclear powered generators has increased further if the new AGR stations can be made to operate.

I am in no doubt that the fuel adjustment charge is not fair to the off-peak consumer. Further, I find completely unacceptable the way in which the local electricity board to inform me what price I shall be paying for my electricity until I receive my bill three months later. What other commodity does one purchase without the knowledge of the cost? I do not understand why two nationalised industries, the National Coal Board and the Central Electricity Generating Board, cannot agree the price of coal for periods of 12 months ahead.

Yours faithfully,
D. H. A. TUGWELL,
18 St. Anne's Crescent,
Lewes, Sussex, BN7 1GB

centage proportional differential, to be as at present, instead of the effective devaluation of the differential outlined by Sir Peter Menzies in his penultimate paragraph.

If the chairman of the Electricity Council is not prepared to concede the justice of this proposal, is he prepared to publish simple figures showing actual annual consumption of electricity on domestic standard tariffs, on domestic off-peak electricity consumption, so that consumers may judge for themselves whether or not these proportional increases are reasonable?

Yours faithfully,
P. GRIGGS-SMITH, FRIBA,
35a Flower Lane,
Mill Hill, London, NW7.

From Mr A. G. Walker
Sir, I have read with interest the letter from Sir Peter Menzies in answer to correspondents complaining of increases in off-peak electricity tariffs.

Incredibly, the chairman of the Electricity Council appears to have brushed aside or missed the point which concerns millions of users of off-peak electricity: that is the reason for the increase in off-peak electricity tariffs. It is the reason for the increase in off-peak electricity tariffs. It is the reason for the increase in off-peak electricity tariffs.

Aside from the foregoing, I understand that the secondary purpose of supplying electricity during off-peak periods was designed to encourage the use of that electricity which would be unavoidably produced during

the night and which, otherwise, he wanted: the being no facility for storing product. Surely this fact alone now he of prime importance is that, when consumers realise "cheap" electricity will be there, they abandon or greatly curtail the use of the former cheap-rate units, thus immediate requirements forgoing the luxury of 24-hour background warmth.

To conclude, I believe that Electricity Council and its man should take a long, look at the "new" charges for off-peak supply. If the general public read these increases then it may be found that there is an extra demand during normal hours followed by a huge demand the use of night storage heat resulting once again in a state of high-cost unusable electricity.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. WALKER,
21 Blendon Road,
Bexley,
Kent, DA5 1BN.

From the Rev Graham Buxton
Sir, This explanation gives the chairman of the Electricity Council of the increased cost of electricity does not quite tally with the speech by the Secretary of State for Energy in the House of Commons April 1, when he implied that those whose accounts are 2 year or over would be charged by 50 per cent; £50 a year by 30 per cent and £50 a year by 10 per cent.

This has the precise opposite of the effect of an all-round increase of 30 pence per unit explained by Sir Peter Menzies, which would place highest percentages of increase on the smallest users.

The Under-Secretary of the House then said that, although he had been made in consultation with the Department of Energy?

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM BUXTON,
56a Port Street,
London, SW1.

Sex discrimination: when ability and enthusiasm are ignored

From Miss M. Wedlake

Sir, I am and have been employed by an auctioneering firm as a country surveyor, auctioneer, estate agent and valuer just over two years and am 21 years of age.

Whilst originally my duties were chiefly secretarial, I quickly found myself taking on an increasing interest in the varied work involved that I applied to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, with the approval of my principal, for student membership and have recently sat the institution's first examination.

At the moment my work involves much estate agency but also incorporates attendance at structural and building society surveys, taking details of and assisting generally in live and dead stock sales by auction, under the supervision of one of the firm's senior auctioneers and assisting in valuations for compulsory purchase, probate and other matters.

All this interests me greatly, and for some months now I have felt that I could go a step further in my profession and try my hand at auctioneering myself. I doubt that there are many precedents for women auctioneers, but I cannot think that this necessarily means a

total exclusion of the sex in what is until now been a predominantly male preserve. I was recently offered the chance, with the vendor's full approval, to come in on one small sale, but this has created almost what could be termed a crisis in the hierarchy of my firm. As it stands, although my principles do not doubt my enthusiasm and ability, I must confine myself to matters more in keeping with my sex.

I am writing to the Royal Institution asking for their views on this matter, but would you and your readers interpret this as blatant sex discrimination, and is this not what Parliament, in its wisdom, is at the moment trying to legislate against?

Finally, in writing this letter I am not putting forward a general case for women's lib, but simply asking if it is right or wrong that given the ability and necessary training, a woman should be allowed to pursue a chosen career without bigotry entering into the matter.

Yours faithfully,
MISS M. WEDLAKE,
Hedgeways,
Throleigh Road,
South Zetland, Devon.

Salvaging waste paper

From Mr R. W. Frost

Sir, As managing director of medium size printing company I am only too conscious of paper supply problems and need to salvage waste. I therefore astonished the day to have delivered to me an up-to-date telephone directory and then he told the old one should be the way.

If this is common practice throughout the country, presumably hundreds of tons of waste paper is being lost each year. Perhaps the administrative costs are too high for Post Office even to think that where the occupant of a home the old directory should be collected.

If this is the case then not postmasters at least and local churches, scouts, others interested in fund raising for charity, because I quite certain that they be delighted to collect up the directories and then waste-paper merchants.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. FROST,
Managing Director,
Grifford Ltd,
7 Burners Lane,
Kiln Farm Industrial Estate,
Sandy Stratford,
Milton Keynes.

MONO CONTAINERS LIMITED	
	1973
Turnover	5,098,348
Net Trading Profit	485,416
U.K. Taxation thereon	242,313
Net Trading Profit after Tax	243,103
Less Extraordinary Items	58,654
Net Profit after Tax and extraordinary items	184,449
Dividends net (gross equivalent 10.22%) (1972: gross 5%)	74,037
Net Profit after tax and dividends	£110,412
Earnings per ordinary share	6.0p

EXTRACTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW
Our turnover during 1973 in both quantity of units and value was the highest ever achieved by the Company. Profits were handicapped by the low activity of business during the first four months of the year, but with the growth in activity as the year progressed, they increased strongly. A dividend of 10.22% was paid in December 1973. We have permission from the Department of Trade to pay a further 5.22% as a Final Dividend—10.22% for the year.

The upturn in business was late in arriving, but demand for our products showed a sudden increase in May and continued with rising demand throughout the year. The market demand was particularly apparent in the roofing and insulation of new buildings, and in the replacement of old and worn types of material together to give a very good reception from our customers.

We had installed extra manufacturing equipment last year in anticipation of our business growing from its depressed state of surplus production capacity to one of increased demand and this has proved to have been a wise decision. We acquired Thurbafarm of Kettering on January 2nd 1974. This Company supplies Polyvinyl Chloride containers in food trade for packing such products as margarine and away over the counter foods. It is supplementary to existing business and should strengthen our position in the market.

It is difficult at this moment to be specific about the outlook for 1974. Demand for our products continues to be good but the effects of raw material shortages, three-day working and the national economic and political situation have to be evaluated.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The Labour view of insider trading



Labour Party's paper on company law reform last week indicated a tougher line on insider trading than the Conservative Bill. The image of the Labour Party as the defender of the underdog is being reinforced by its stance on insider trading. The Labour Party's paper on company law reform last week indicated a tougher line on insider trading than the Conservative Bill. The image of the Labour Party as the defender of the underdog is being reinforced by its stance on insider trading.

Foseco Minsep Slower in the first quarter

A p/e ratio consistently running into double figures in recent weeks is a fair guide to the high level of stock market expectations from Foseco Minsep, and the indication that trading profits—up by 36 per cent last year—had risen by a much more modest 14 per cent in the first quarter, with margins falling appreciably in the bargain, was not at all up to par. Hence the 6p fall in the shares to 99p on Friday, where the historic p/e dropped back below 10.

With 77 per cent of sales generated outside the United Kingdom, the grounds for concern over the slowdown are reasonable enough and the accounts do not help much in clarifying the direction from here on. The implication, however, is that the home operations have not escaped the problems of the three-day week and that the overseas business has come to a standstill. Encouragingly, Foseco's building and construction division which currently looks the most suspect, appears to be sustaining its recent rapid advance.

Judging by the organic improvement in margins last year (the overall slippage being explained by acquisitions) it could be unwise to read too much into the first quarter trend, and there is little enough to quarrel about in the undergarbed balance sheet. The cautious will hold back in the hope of reassurance from the half year results, but in the meantime any further weakness in the shares could offer attractive buying opportunities for the more bold.

Accounts: 1973 (1972)
Capitalization £45.3m
Net assets £23.9m (£21.4m)
Borrowings £4.7m (£5.5m)
Pre-tax profit £3.6m (£7.2m)
Earnings per share 10.0p (8.5p)

Portals Defensive qualities

Portals' accounts show that the group performed rather better last year than the preliminary results indicated. Trading profits of the company's three divisions, papermaking, water treatment and engineering, were increased by just over a quarter, more than compensating for the lack of revenue from the Indian Paper Mill contract, which expired at the end of 1972, contributing some £257,000 extra to the comparable year's profits.

Portals' largest division, water treatment and engineering, which contributed some £1.3m last year, improved its profits by nearly a third in spite of labour and raw material shortages, helped substantially by a turnaround at Vacuumatic, where a continuing recovery should be a feature of the current year. On the other hand, Portals, which only around 30 per cent of its sales last year in domestic markets, looks quite well placed to withstand the pressures of 1974. In particular, the balance sheet looks remarkably healthy, with overdrafts reduced from £3.6m to £2.3m and cash balances and short-term deposits up from £1.4m to £3m. The shares, at 90p on a p/e ratio of 7½, look reasonably valued.

Accounts: 1973 (1972)
Capitalization £11.7m
Net assets £14.9m (£12.4m)
Borrowings £2.3m (£3.6m)
Pre-tax profit £3.8m (£3.2m)
Earnings per share 12.42p (12.08p)

We in the United Kingdom

The retail price index rose 3½ per cent in April bringing it to a level nearly 10 per cent higher than in October 1973, thereby triggering three rounds of index-linked wage payments. The cost of imported materials, on the other hand, has been levelling out, the prices of many individual commodities having actually fallen, and this has been interpreted to mean that the rise in retail prices may soon slow down.

The main purpose of this article is to suggest that it is premature to take an optimistic view and that it is unlikely that retail prices will slow down significantly during the rest of 1974. A very large further fall in commodity prices would reduce the rate of increase, though not by all that much before October, while a further acceleration in retail prices is at least on the cards.

This pessimistic view is taken mainly because a considerable proportion of the rise in costs during the past year had still not, in April, been passed on into retail prices. In the first quarter of 1974 the price of imported goods and services was nearly 40 per cent higher than a year earlier while the rise in labour costs was around 12 per cent. The weighted average increase in unit costs about 24 per cent.

Yet the rise in retail prices of

manufactured goods, which account for about 60 per cent of the retail price index, was only about 13 per cent over this period. A proper estimate of the extent to which costs have been incurred but not passed on requires careful consideration of time lags and other factors.

Calculations carried out in the Department of Applied Economics at Cambridge indicate that, by April, a rise in costs had occurred on a scale corresponding to a further increase in the (all items) retail price index of about 9 per cent; this is the amount by which the index would rise after April if there were no further change in costs and if normal profit margins were not further squeezed.

The actual movement of prices between April and October depends partly on the extent to which this "store up" increase in costs gets passed on. It depends also on the movement in the price of items (eg certain foods, rents, fuel, light and fares) which the Government controls directly; these items are reckoned, on the basis of what has already been announced, to add about 3 per cent directly to the all items index. (Tax changes and subsidies, however, which are assumed to affect prices from April). Price changes will

depend, finally on the movement of costs after April (whether these are "principal" settlements under Phase Three, "triggers", or changes in import prices) and the speed and extent to which these get passed on.

The lowest increase in the index between April and October which in my view can plausibly be entertained is 6 to 7 per cent, bringing the index to a level nearly 17 per cent up on October, 1973—implying that the threshold will be triggered at least 10 times in all. In reaching this conclusion it has been assumed that half the labour force is covered by direct wage agreements in the second quarter and that the great majority are covered in the third.

Otherwise, relatively optimistic assumptions have been made, in particular that the sterling exchange rate is unaffected by these developments, that import prices fall as much as they did in the aftermath of the Suez crisis and that costs are passed on with a lag no shorter than normal.

None the less, this relatively optimistic forecast implies a legacy of "stored up" costs incurred by October, 1974, but not yet passed on, such as to generate a subsequent rise in retail prices of about 7 per cent.

The inflation could easily be worse than this. The assump-

tion that wage increases, including threshold payments, are made on with a normal time lag of about four months seems vulnerable in the very inflationary conditions in prospect since it implies a further squeeze on cash profits which may well be resisted.

There are, of course, provisions in the Price Code designed to attenuate the effect of about cost increases on prices. But it may prove difficult to enforce the best of the scale of cost increases in the pipeline, not yet passed on. In other words an attempt to delay the impact of threshold triggers may be offset by a faster than usual adjustment by firms of their prices for other cost increases; such a speeding up process could not easily be identified by the Price Commission.

Moreover it is too early to assume that a substantial further fall in world commodity prices will occur or to be at all confident that sterling will hold at its present rate against other currencies.

These considerations suggest that the rise in prices may turn out to be as much as 20 per cent per annum and more rapid inflation than this can be ruled out.

Perhaps the main obstacles to checking the inflation from next autumn will be first that

the effect of incomes policy, and particularly of the threshold system (since this gives flat rate increases and probably will not cover all workers) will have been to distort the pattern of differentials in a way which does not command assent; second that if the balance of payments is to improve significantly there is little prospect that sufficient resources will be available to allow real living standards to rise much for a long time.

The alarming prospect of rapid inflation does not call for the attempt to impose another wage and price freeze. Though the threshold mechanism has almost certainly exacerbated the inflationary impetus of last year's world commodity price rises, it could prove useful in slowing down the rate of inflation next year.

If threshold agreements remain, after November, an important element of pay increases, then provided the mechanism does not purport to guarantee an unrealistic level of real consumption, the prospect of a sharp world recession next year may provide the opportunity to bring our rate of inflation gradually under control.

K. J. Coutts
A member of the Department of Applied Economics at Cambridge University.

How much inflation in the pipeline?

Little chance of prices slowdown

Harland's long search for profits

Champagne corks will be popping throughout most of next week in Athens. Already the hotels are filling up with clients from every corner of the globe.

The occasion is Posidonía '74 or, more prosaically, the international shipping exhibition being held every two years in Athens—an event which those regular attendees are careful to ring round in their diaries well in advance.

This year promises to be more stimulating and interesting than some recent ones in terms of the banter at the cocktail parties and at the stands in the Zappeion Palace what will be the impact of Suez? What are the prospects of lasting peace in the Middle East? How will the growing nationalism in shipping affect the fortunes of the independent owners?

Closer to home, there will inevitably be considerable discussion on the prospects for the British shipbuilding industry if the Labour Government goes ahead with its plans for total nationalization of the industry. For a small group of men from embittered Belfast who are manning the Harland & Wolff stand the question is particularly pertinent. For them and their company—in which the Government already has a 47.6 per cent stake—the exhibition is of supreme importance for somehow they have to be able to reassure their past, present and potential customers of the group's ability to continue building ships. Against the background of five years' civil strife in Ulster and the highly

damaging effects of the recent Ulster workers' Council strike, this will be no easy task.

As the first visitors are passing through the doors of the exhibition hall in Athens, today the Harland & Wolff operation in Belfast is getting back to normal.

The damage caused by the strike, while it may be measured in terms of lost production, cannot be effectively measured in terms of its effects on the ordering pattern which owners may adopt in the future.

While its executives understandably do not like to become involved in political arguments, the group cannot be separated totally from them.

In the light of the importance of the group to the economy the decision by the Government not to commit itself to the provision of additional funds for the time being is a clear political manoeuvre in an effort to influence the Workers' Council's strike strategy.

Now that the strike is over the question of the extra cash is expected to be resolved in the very near future. It involves an undertaking given by the previous government in December last year under which £10m of debt was to be replaced by the issue of new shares.

The Government of about £8m of new preference shares convertible in due course into ordinary shares. In addition, it provided for additional guarantee facilities up to a further £10m which would be made available to the company as needed up to the end of 1976.

The company wanted an assurance from the Labour Government that the money would be forthcoming—it is currently engaged in preparing its balance sheet—and following a meeting with Mr. Merlyn Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Harland & Wolff position is back to normal.

Mr. Ivor Hoppe, the company's chief executive, said he looked forward "with reasonable confidence" to an announcement.

Meanwhile, the company continues its quest for profitability and in view of the recent strike and the damaging effects of the steelworkers' strike last year (which contributed to a £9m loss in the first half of 1973) the prospects of the company achieving profitability in 1974-75 are not bright.

Mr. Hoppe, who was brought in last year to reorganize and pull back H & W into the black, said last week that work on the £35m modernization and development programme code-named P200 was going according to plan. Steel throughput at the yard, however, still lags behind target and last year, with steel shortages exacerbated by the strike, amounted to 70,000 tons compared with 94,000 tons the previous year.

The group has, however, now nearly reached the end of the line of modernization. The debt should soon be moving on to the construction of ships contracted at reasonable prices and covered, at least in part, by cost escalation clauses. The order book for the yard is healthy, with a backlog of large bulk carriers and four 313,000 ton deadweight very

large crude carriers and six more of 333,000 tons dw.

Recently the company moved into the construction of smaller ships picking up orders for two 66,000 ton dw products carriers. The construction of products carriers in a series will provide the company with a "happy interregnum", Mr. Hoppe said, and industry sources indicated that the company may not be far from announcing a further clutch of orders for this particular class of ship.

Beyond the end of this decade the company has plans for more standard design ships—the nature of which Mr. Hoppe was unwilling to enlarge upon—some of which will hopefully provide a steady workload for the expanded facilities of H & W.

Whether H & W is building those ships under the aegis of a nationalized corporation remains to be seen. Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, has said that nationalization of shipbuilding will require separate legislation.

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COMPANY MEETINGS

HOULDER LINE

The Annual General Meeting of Houlder Line Limited will be held on June 25 in London. The following is the statement by Mr. Chairman, MR. JOHN M. HOULDER, M.B.E., which has been circulated with the report and accounts:—

1973 was a good year for Houlder Line. The earnings were doubled at £494,000 before exceptional items, notwithstanding an increase in taxation from £12,000 to £146,000. The debt of £222,000 for exceptional items is the balance after a writing-down of short-dated preference stock amounting to £550,000. When these stocks are held to redemption in 1976 and 1977, £387,000 of this amount will be recovered. If this in-and-out transaction is ignored, the exceptional items would have shown a credit of £300,000.

We have paid a second interim dividend in the year 1973/74 instead of a final dividend payable in the year 1974/75 as a careful study showed that this would be to the advantage of nearly all stockholders.

Houlder Line are now substantially involved in the offshore oil industry. As stated last year, we have taken an interest in Kingsnorth Marine Drilling Ltd, which has purchased two semi-submersible drilling rigs costing £10 million each, and we are responsible for providing the operating personnel. We are likewise on the point of concluding a similar arrangement with a Norwegian shipowning company, in which we will have an interest in their rig and will provide the operating personnel. The first of the Kingsnorth rigs has been chartered on satisfactory terms to a major company, and will start drilling early next year.

Following this we acquired a

small ore carrier, "Oregis", from our associated company, Ore Carriers Ltd, and converted the ship for pipe coupling in deep water. Satisfactory contracts were obtained covering the whole of this year and 1975, with prospects of further remunerative employment. Unfortunately our ship went ashore when leaving the Tyne and is now undergoing extensive repairs in drydock. This represents a major setback, the effect of which it is impossible to assess at the present time.

"Hardwicke Grange" and "Ocean Transport" are engaged in our South American liner trade and have been practically full both ways throughout the year as the trade is now fully rationalised. Unfortunately it has been rather a race between rising costs and rising freight rates, and costs have maintained their lead; although there are signs of freight catching up.

The bulk carrier, "Clyde Bridge", in which we have an interest was unfortunately unable to benefit from the 1973 trade boom, as it was committed to the Seabridge consortium. However, our colleagues have now agreed that we can leave on giving three years' notice without penalty, and this notice has been given.

I would like to thank all concerned, including the trade unions with whom we are involved, for the way they have responded to the many demands made on them as a result of these new ventures, and would also like to express my thanks to all those who have stood by us at a time when there has been a critical shortage of manpower in the merchant navy. Our office staff, by careful organisation and efficiency, have been able to cope with more work than ever before with less numbers.

Business Diary in Europe: Thawing Greenland? • Nypro's Dutch parent

re Thomson, the EEC dissension for regional s, is back in Brussels what seems to have been a joyable five-day trip to land, despite his hosts' de to the Community, is as icy as their weather. unson is hoping there be some more cash in the to aid the island, despite rhaps because of the fact he islanders voted heavily i joining the EEC in the Danish referendum. Aid y identified as coming Brussels might soften the landers' hearts, and per- even in mainland Denmark. enland is bigger than the EEC plus Portugal, and yet has a population of 30,000 people spread in un- cted settlements along its o 200-mile deep habitable. A province of Denmark, indigenous people are ally Eskimos, and the age they speak is very eek from Danish. Danish rks out around £1,000 per annum, there is a a governor, and two landers in the Danish ment.

wresting a living from barren soil, while the weather reminded him of Scotland in January. He talked with members of the regional council, mingled with huskies, and discussed Greenland's priority needs with Danish officials.

Present among these needs is a modern telecommunications system. At present phone calls can only be made from the capital. Work is beginning with help from the European Investment Bank, using a Japanese system of microwaves. Then the helicopter service is very expensive and climate-prone. It is hoped that a system of small landing strips capable of taking small passenger aircraft can be developed.

Half the costs of the excellent central technical college are already paid by the EEC's social fund, and Community funds could help to finance a study on possible local industries to augment fish processing.



Lord Catto: reception in Rome.

Under Dr W. A. J. Bogers, president of the board of managing directors, turnover this year is expected to exceed £1,000m. It ranks 9th in the fortune list of the 300 largest industrials outside the United States. It employs 30,000 people throughout the world, closed down its last mine last year, and has systematically switched its interests from mining to chemicals.



Lord Catto: reception in Rome.

It also has a considerable share in the exploitation of the Dutch natural gas wells and has a right to participate in the exploitation of any oil eventually found under the Dutch continental shelf.

DSM's main products are raw materials for nylon and plastics, artificial-fertilizers, rubbers, salt, various gases and pre-fabricated units for the building industry.

The group also has a share in the top-secret project for producing enriched uranium for atomic reactors being developed by Britain, West Germany and The Netherlands, with its centre in the east of The Netherlands.

The concern is busy building up interests in the transport, clothing and

Jardine Japan Investment Trust Limited

Points from the Chairman's
Mr. M. A. R. Harries, statement.

Net revenue for the year to 31st December 1973 after taxation amounted to £60,774 (£18,848 for 1972) and a dividend of 0.45p per share (0.18p for 1972) is being recommended.

The higher net revenue and dividend in part reflect operations for a full year but the major factor was a growth in liquidity combined with high interest rates, in the closing months of the year.

It is anticipated that, despite the severe deflationary measures taken by the Japanese Government and the decline in corporate profits from 1973 levels, the economy will pick up towards the end of the year.

The Board remains convinced of the long term advantages of investment in Japan and reinvestment is intended when the time is considered appropriate. Should the Company return to a more fully invested position the reduced level of liquidity will in the first instance result in a lower level of income, although over the longer term a sustained growth in revenue together with capital appreciation should be ensured.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from The Secretary of the Company at Metheson House, 142 Minories, London, EC3N 1CL.

Portals: buoyant results for 1973

A Summary of the Statement by the Chairman,
Mr. John Shefferson, included in the 1973 Annual Report.

Profits before taxation and after loan stock interest increased by 18% and earnings per share, after increased corporation tax, by 4%. Assets per share rose from 96p to 115p.

The pre-tax profit of the Water Treatment and Engineering companies increased by 32%. There was a considerable increase in the demand for our products during the year and our main problems were the difficulty of obtaining both materials and skilled labour, and coping with large cost increases.

The Bank Note and Security Paper division shows a very satisfactory increase in profit of 21%, which offsets the cessation of the Indian know-how payments, the last of which was received in 1972. We have been working at full capacity, and our development programme to improve and extend our range of products and to expand our capacity continued to receive high priority.

The pre-tax profits of the Property division were 23% above the previous year's.

The first few months of 1974 have been similar to 1973: high order books, spiralling costs and acute shortages of materials and labour. During the period of the three-day week we were not badly affected. We view 1974 with guarded optimism and anticipate profits at least greater than the previous year's.

Portals Holdings Limited

Water Treatment and Engineering: Security Papermaking: Property

The cover of our Report & Accounts, reproduced below, is taken from an Egyptian tomb-painting of the Old Kingdom and shows papyrus reeds in the Nile. It was from papyrus that the ancient Egyptians made a forerunner of true paper. Copies of the Report can be obtained from The Secretary, Overton Mill, Overton, Basingstoke, Hants. RG25 3JG.



Management

Consultants adapt to changing climate

Management consultants in Britain have still not recovered the ground they lost when they were hit by a recession in 1971.

The annual report for 1973 of the Management Consultants Association, published last week, shows that revenues earned in the United Kingdom in that year were £22.3m. This is almost the same figure as for 1970, but when allowance is made for inflation it means that the real value of revenues last year was substantially below that of 1970.

However, the consultants have by now made substantial adjustment to the more difficult conditions which have followed

the years of rapid growth in the 1960s. In particular, they have sought expansion abroad. In the last four years overseas earnings have risen from £8.8m to 1970 to £11.3m last year, so that they are now equivalent to about a half of earnings in the United Kingdom, at against 30 per cent in 1970.

The increase in earnings abroad has been achieved with little change in the number of consultants based in foreign countries. At home, however, the number of consultants has fallen by a quarter since 1970, and this reflects the determined efforts which have been made to increase revenues per head.

Ideas for worker participation in industry are very much in the air—and will be still more so, if Mr Wilson manages to win a clear majority in an autumn election. So, whether they like this sort of thing or not, people in industry ought perhaps to pay attention to what happens in countries where worker participation in one form or another is already established.

The "limiting case" must be Yugoslavia, where the workers have actually managed industry for 20 years now. There, a significant reform of the worker-managing system was inaugurated last year, and has now become fully operative. I was able to see some of the reform's effects in a visit last month to Montenegro.

The reform in industry is part of a wider series of changes in the country's constitution and practice, set in motion by President Tito himself in the autumn of 1972, following separatist troubles in Croatia which had threatened to tear the country apart. In many sectors of activity, the changes tend towards a Soviet-style reassertion of the central role of the Communist Party, and the imposition of stricter "Marxist" orthodoxy.

In industry, however, the emphasis of the reform is on greater worker participation. The basic idea of the latest reform in industry is to break down industrial undertakings into smaller administrative units, so that workers get greater chance of effective participation in the running of their factory (or mine, or railway, or department store as the case may be).

Hitherto, each factory was, from the legal point of view, an enterprise, with the enterprise council as a legal person. Each shop in the factory elected one or more delegates to the workers' council, which was legally the controlling body of the enterprise.

The workers' council normally met once a month. There was also a smaller management board, on which sat the chairman of the workers' council and other members elected by that body, and also (but without a vote) the enterprise's director. The management board met once a week, or more often if necessary, to decide day-to-day questions. The director, appointed by a joint committee of the workers' council and the local government authority, was the



President Tito of Yugoslavia: management reformer

executive head of the enterprise but answerable to the workers' council.

All kinds of questions were resolved within this structure, but possibly the most important was that of workers' incomes. After the receipt of money from sales, and the payment of material costs, depreciation and taxes, the enterprise was left with a sum known as the income of the enterprise.

The workers' council had to decide, within complicated legal limits, how much of this should be paid out to the workers as personal incomes, and how much retained for investment.

The trouble with this system, it was felt, was that in large enterprises it was too indirect a democracy. Once elected, the workers' council, and still more so the management board, tended to be seen as "them" rather than "us". Strikes, though officially unthinkable, were not unknown.

The solution was taken not from Karl Marx but from Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who held that the only true democracy was the direct democracy of the ancient Athenian Republic, where the whole body of citizens met to debate and vote on public issues. In other words, the less delegation the better.

In Yugoslav industry this has meant that the legal concept of

the enterprise has been abolished. Instead, the basic unit, or legal person, is the OOUR, an abbreviation which stands for the Serbo-Croatian words for Basic Organization of Socialized Labour.

The easiest way of explaining what this implies is by examples. Take the Niksic steelworks, a plant producing some 110,000 tons of special steels a year, set rather improbably on a mountain-ringed Montenegrin plateau where the only other industry is a brewery—the explanation of the location is that it was set up there in 1951 to be relatively safe from a putative Soviet invasion.

Before the latest reform, the Niksic works was a single enterprise, with 4,000 workers and a workers' council of 55 members. Now, it comprises eight OOURs, covering the furnaces, the hot rolling mill, the country. Each of these has its own democratic structure along the lines of the former enterprise model outlined above.

The criterion for the establishment of an OOUR is that its activities, and therefore its finances, can be identified separately from those of other parts of the factory. This means that the workers' council, can make decision such as those about wages versus investment, which previously were handed down from the workers' council of the whole enterprise.

From the legal point of view, the whole steelworks is now a working organization (RO for short, from the Serbo-Croatian word), it still has its workers' council, but this cannot overrule the decisions of the workers' councils of the component OOURs.

Another example, of a slightly different kind, can be seen in the Monreag hotel industry. Seven hotel enterprises, each with half-a-dozen or so hotels each, were persuaded to merge at the start of 1974 by the Montenegrin government. The arguments for this were those of economies of

scale in publicity, sales and transport, and the fact that the government wanted an expert organization to design and staff a brand-new complex of hotels with 5,000 beds which is to go up on a virgin shore at Jaz, near Budva.

The commercial advantages are clear, but at the same time there is an enterprise of this size which certainly has seemed remote from the waiters, cooks, housemaids who are its staff, for the and-file members, along a 30 m stretch of coast.

But the reform allowed in clear the combined organization to be set up as an RO, while the enterprises remain in the guise of OOURs. Thus, for example, the hotels at Budva where members of the British tourists seem to go, are all run by OOURs, each with its own 450 permanent staff and 1,000 seasonal hotel staff.

This is a small enough number for even the smallest hotel to have three people on the workers' council, so that all the workers know at least several of the council members (who practice, in a small place like Budva, everyone tends to know everyone else). The establishment of the OOUR system should enable some native sociologists to investigate whether people are happier with this system than with the old enterprise one. It is shown that they are, the indication for people setting up worker participation schemes in countries like Britain will be that it is not enough simply to graft such schemes onto the existing administrative structure of industry. The structure must sometimes be altered to make the participation more effective.

Michael Connolly

Lecturer at Middlesex Polytechnic, who is studying economic development in Montenegro with a grant from the Social Science Research Council.

Is Britain a nation of subordinates?

Are our organizations too big, and why? What happens when an entrepreneur overreaches himself and takes on challenges beyond his competence and resources? What happens when an enterprise—an organization taking risks for innovation—turns into a public service but still goes on calling itself an enterprise?

Is it legitimate to talk about professional managers, except in the restricted sense that they are paid? How many companies make mistakes similar to those that caused the downfall of medieval monasteries?

These are some of the entertaining and fruitful questions that come up in a reading of *Business in British Business*, by Dr F. R. Jervis. In short compass, his book gives us a taste of some of the more prominent problems of industry in the days when Britain led the world (and it is worth remembering that this was when the power of decision was decentralized in British industry as it has not been for the hundred years since) and their successors.

He goes on to the metamorphosis which has made Britain predominantly a nation of employees and subordinates, managed by owners' agents rather than entrepreneurs, and now in the final stage of abstraction

where leading shareholders are non-persons like pension funds, locked into their shareholdings, because to sell would break the market, but qualified neither by inclination nor by training to influence industrial management.

As a Cool's tour of the subject to absorb a reader for an evening, Dr Jervis's book could hardly be bettered. It presents a situation that many people are too blinkered, or too satisfied in their own comfortable corner to see. However, although he puts up a spirited defence of the founding fathers, many of whom were much less flinty than they are commonly painted (the early "professional managers" were probably worse, on the whole, in their treatment of employees), he is a little disappointing on solutions.

"The real test of efficiency", he writes, "is to ask the question, 'would you do it if it were your own money?'". If the world were as simple as that, we should have had no monasteries, and it would not have prevented the South Sea Bubble or the Rolls-Royce collapse either.

Innis Macbeath

* *Business in British Business*, by F. R. Jervis. Routledge and Kegan Paul, £2.95.

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FINLAY PACKAGING LTD.

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SATISFACTORY RESULTS ACHIEVED IN A DIFFICULT YEAR

The 18th Annual General Meeting of Finlay Packaging Limited held on 31st May in Belfast, Mr R. N. D. Langdon, F.C.A., Chairman, presiding.

The following are extracts from the Accounts for the year ended December, 1973:—

RESULTS: Sales during 1973 amounted to £2,061,776 of which £23,230 comprised exports.

Although the difficulties in Ulster have continued, the Company, after taxation, was £117,750, compared with £72,179 for the year ended 1972. The increase in profit reflects the more efficient operation installed over recent years.

EXPANSION: Expansion into printing and carton production Consett, Co. Durham, referred to in last year's Report, has been up by delays in delivery of equipment. The machines on order now expected in July and September.

An extension of 20,000 sq. ft. to the Consett factory is planned completion in late 1975.

CURRENT TRADING PROSPECTS: There is a serious labour shortage and Paper and Plastic are in extremely short supply. The restrictions which were imposed to conserve energy caused some loss of production and we are faced with continued increases in all costs. Despite these factors, however, we are hopeful of maintaining position in 1974.

CONCLUSION: We have made the usual profit sharing bonus payments to all employees with over six months' service, and the holders will join with me in expressing our deep appreciation of efforts of all employed by the Company.

The Report and Accounts were adopted.

Matthews Wrightson Holdings Limited



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Incorporated Insurance Brokers—and at Lloyd's
Galbraith Wrightson Limited
Shipbrokers on the Baltic Exchange
Matthews Wrightson Pulbrook Limited
Underwriting Agents at Lloyd's
Matthews Wrightson Land Limited
Rural land use
Instone Air Transport Limited
Air Brokers on the Baltic Exchange

Group 1973 pre-tax profits, at £5.8 million, up 25.6%

Further expansion is expected in 1974.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Report & Accounts, please write to The Secretary, Matthews Wrightson Holdings Limited, Fountain House, 130 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 5DJ.

Tootal's cautious but overseas still 'strong'

Robert Moss at peak but slows in second-half

alter Runciman

The interim dividend is unchanged at 2p. on which there were waivers for 3.11m shares.

The adverse implications of dividend restraint referred to by several brokers are spelled out by George Henderson in its quarterly review. With dividends limited to 5 per cent and higher tax charges, dividends will barely rise this year in money terms. In the absence of any political likelihood that limitation will be lifted one

Terry Byland

	Price	Reduction Yld
3 STRAIGHTS		
Affair S.S. 1988	.. 90	-10.07
American Motors 9% 1989	.. 91	8.89

	Price	Yds.
BASE (FF) 7100 1987 ..	73	11.63
	73	11.63

The following companies will be added to the London and Regional Share Price List tomorrow and will be published daily in Business News:

**Commercial and Industrial
Cutter Hammer
Royal Sovereign Group**

Christopher Wilkins

gross revenue and a 36 p. profit, the dividend has been 24 p.c. and nearly £560.0 added to Revenue Reserve.

- The re-imposition of terms control on rental and hire-purchase contracts in December last has resulted in reduced new business in the first quarter of this year. Cash sales and rental income increased, however, and cash flow for the quarter was at a higher level than last year.
- Our rental subscribers now total approximately 52,000 of whom 32,000 are renting colour television.
- The requirement of 42 weeks' rental in advance on new contracts will continue to restrict new business in the current year, but rental income after payment of value added tax should reach £3,000,000.
- The Directors are confident that satisfactory results can be achieved this year despite ever-increasing costs and the many problems to be overcome.

Copies of the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 1974 can be obtained from the Secretary, Electra House, Victoria Embankment, London, WC2R 3HP

The leading manufacturers of loose leaf ring binders, equipment and systems for use in all branches of industry, commerce, education, and government administration.

1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 26

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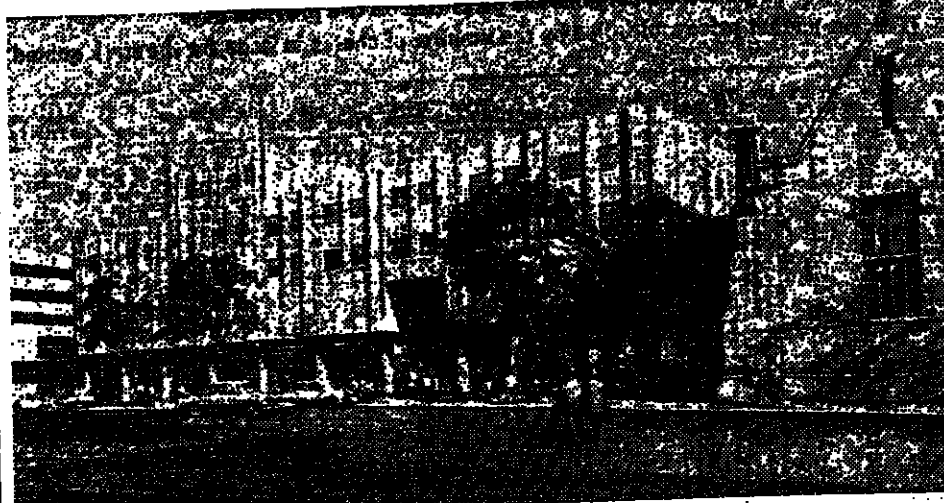
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An artist's impression of the offices and shops planned for the centre of Bedford.

Overseas developments continue to attract British organisations and their interest is by no means confined to the continent of Europe. Slough Estates, who have been exploring the possibilities of Canada, have made their first purchase in the province of Quebec. It is the first scheme the company has begun in Canada outside the greater Toronto area.

The site is in the Montreal area, on the Côte de Liesse road, near the Trans-Canada Highway system and Dorval airport. It covers about 25 acres and, when completed, the value of the industrial estate will be about \$7.25m.

The land is ready for the construction of roads and services and the first phase of the programme of 450,000 sq ft of industrial buildings will begin this month with completion of the first units in October. This is the company's sixth acquisition in Canada to date, giving them a Canadian portfolio of more than 350 acres of industrial land, more than two million sq ft of factories and warehouses.

On the Continent, Hurst End Properties, a member of the Reahurst Group, who announced a new industrial development near Brussels last week, have begun work on a large enclosed shopping mall in the central part of the Hague. The scheme is being carried out by Hurst End (OBS), and arises from the financing arrangements agreed between Hurst End and Old Broad Street Securities, the merchant banking arm of the United Dominions Trust Group of Companies, last summer.

The site has three street frontages, of which the main retail entrances will be in Vennestraat and the Greenmarkt, with service facilities in the Nieuwstraat.

The Vennestraat is one of the main pedestrianised shopping streets in the Hague and it is possible that the Greenmarkt will also be pedestrianised. Joint architects for the scheme are Groosman and Partners, of Rotterdam, and W. H. Saunders and Son, of London.

The scheme will provide 32 shops of varying sizes with a total retail area of just over 37,500 sq ft. Layout will be in the form of an L-shaped mall, covered and air-conditioned, with a large central piazza. Lettings are through Millers and Harding, of London and Brussels, N. Nadorp and Zoon.

Industrial plan near Montreal

of The Hague, and Inogen NC De Bilt.

Office activity in the United Kingdom includes a scheme by GRA Developments, a wholly owned subsidiary of GRA Property Trust, at 219/229 Queensway, Bletchley. The building will contain about 23,000 sq ft on four floors, with parking for 12 cars. Completion is due in the autumn of next year. Lettings are through D. E. and J. Levy, of London, Harmer, Raxworthy, of Aylesbury, and Geoffrey R. Guy, of Bletchley, Milton Keynes.

In Richmond on Thames, Surrey, which seems to be increasingly in demand as an off-centre location, work is nearing completion on a development at 11/13 Paradise Road by Torridge Property Group. The scheme is being carried out by Baimore Properties, a Torridge subsidiary, and design is by David Bishop and Associates, of Richmond.

Torridge's previous scheme of 17,500 sq ft in Kew Foot Road has been let at a rent of more than 55 a sq ft. Paul Booth and Co, who were responsible for the letting, acquired the site for Torridge and are letting agents. The rent expected is 57 a sq ft.

In Newbury, Investment and Property Holdings have completed a new office block giving on to the Robin Hood roundabout. The building comprises about 17,000 sq ft and a letting has been negotiated on the basis of 15 years to the Selection Trust, Ltd, at a rent of 54,000 a year. Funding for the scheme was arranged through the Standard Life Assurance Co and the joint letting agents acting on behalf of IPH were Conrad Ribbit and Martin and Pole.

Big changes in Bedford are foreshadowed by plans for the redevelopment of the old Bedford Modern School site in the centre of the town, left free by the removal of the school to the outskirts. The Harper Trust has placed a contract worth £2.75m with Kier Ltd of the

newly formed French-Kier group, for the scheme, which has been designed by Frederick Gibberd and Partners. The plan initially will consist of about 10,000 sq ft of offices and shops, including four major stores. The offices will rise four storeys on one frontage, but later there may be a further five-storey wing, providing another 30,000 sq ft of offices.

The site covers about 34 acres in the centre of the town and is bounded by Midland Road, where the fine facade designed by Edward Blore in the 1830s is to be retained with the main entrance to the precinct beneath the central tower. The agents are Hillier Parker May and Rowden.

Bovis Property Division are looking for someone who can support a development permit for an office scheme on a particularly good site at Stevenage, Essex. The development would be called, is planned for a site of about seven acres, formerly a sports ground, next to the new railway station, to which it has direct access.

Designed by Leonard Vincent, Raymond Goring and Partners, the planned building will be 15 storeys high, providing about 135,000 sq ft of fully air-conditioned offices. The site would be extensively landscaped and have ample parking space.

It is considered that Audley House would be suitable for a department or as the headquarters of a national or international company. Letting agents are Debenham Tewson and Chinnocks and Leavers.

In Birmingham the freehold of Queensway House, Corporation Street, has been sold at a figure near £5m to the newly established West Midlands Metropolitan Council for use as their headquarters. The building, which is a landmark on the inner ring road system, has a net area of about 210,000 sq ft and is air-conditioned, with parking for some 200 cars.

In the transaction the county council were represented by Edwards, Bigwood and Bewley, Birmingham. For Property Security Investment Trust, the developers, negotiations were handled by Edward Broxman and Co.

Gerald Ely

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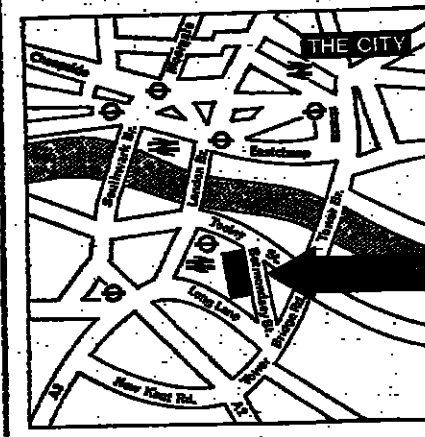
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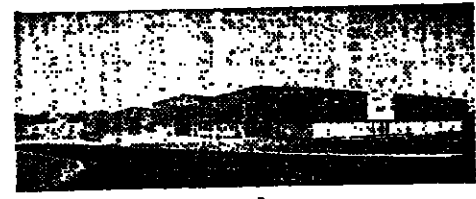
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